The Long Island FISHERMAN

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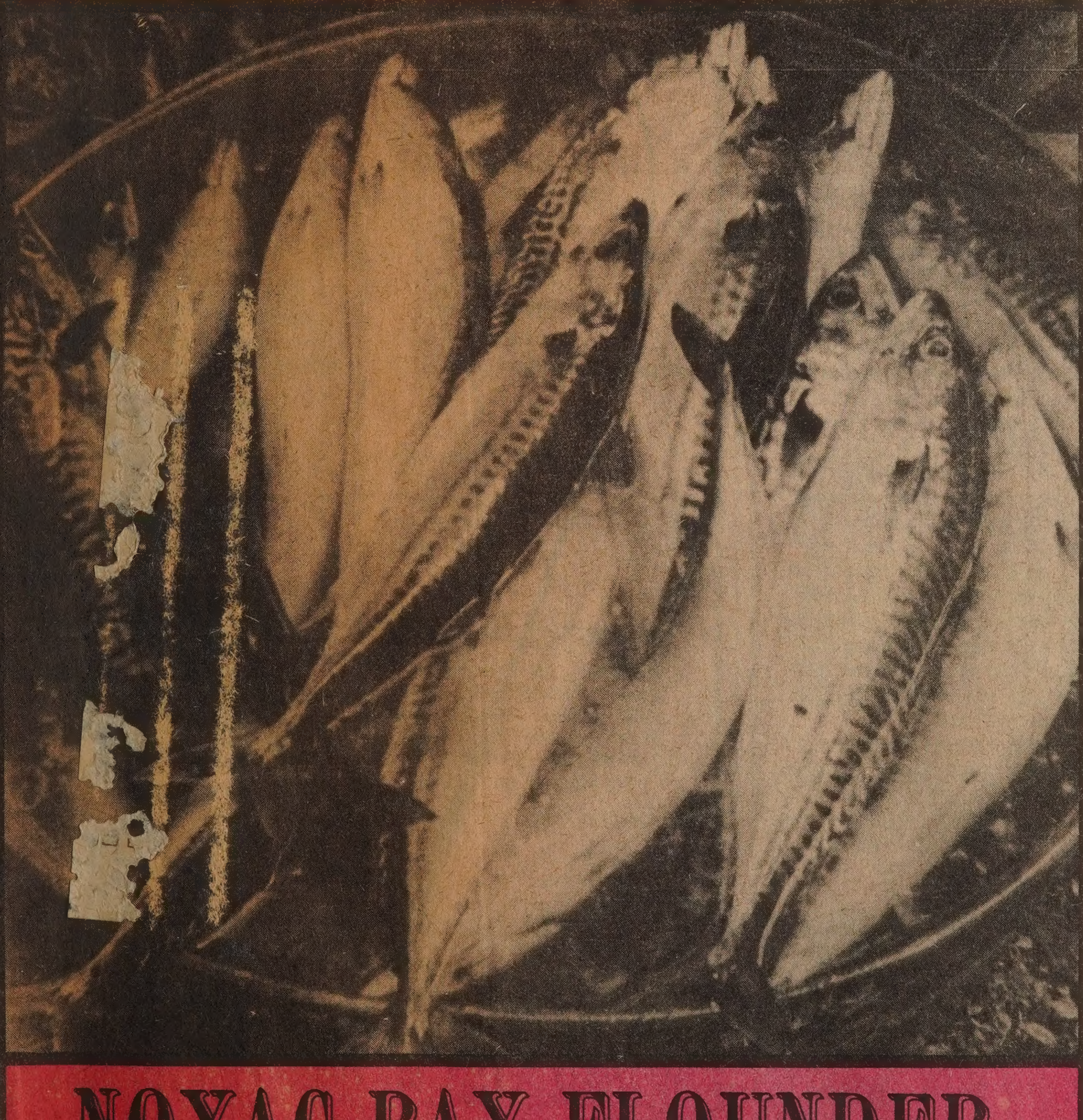
April 26th, 1979 ★ Volume 14, Number 17 ★ 14th Year of Publishing ★ FIFTY-CENTS



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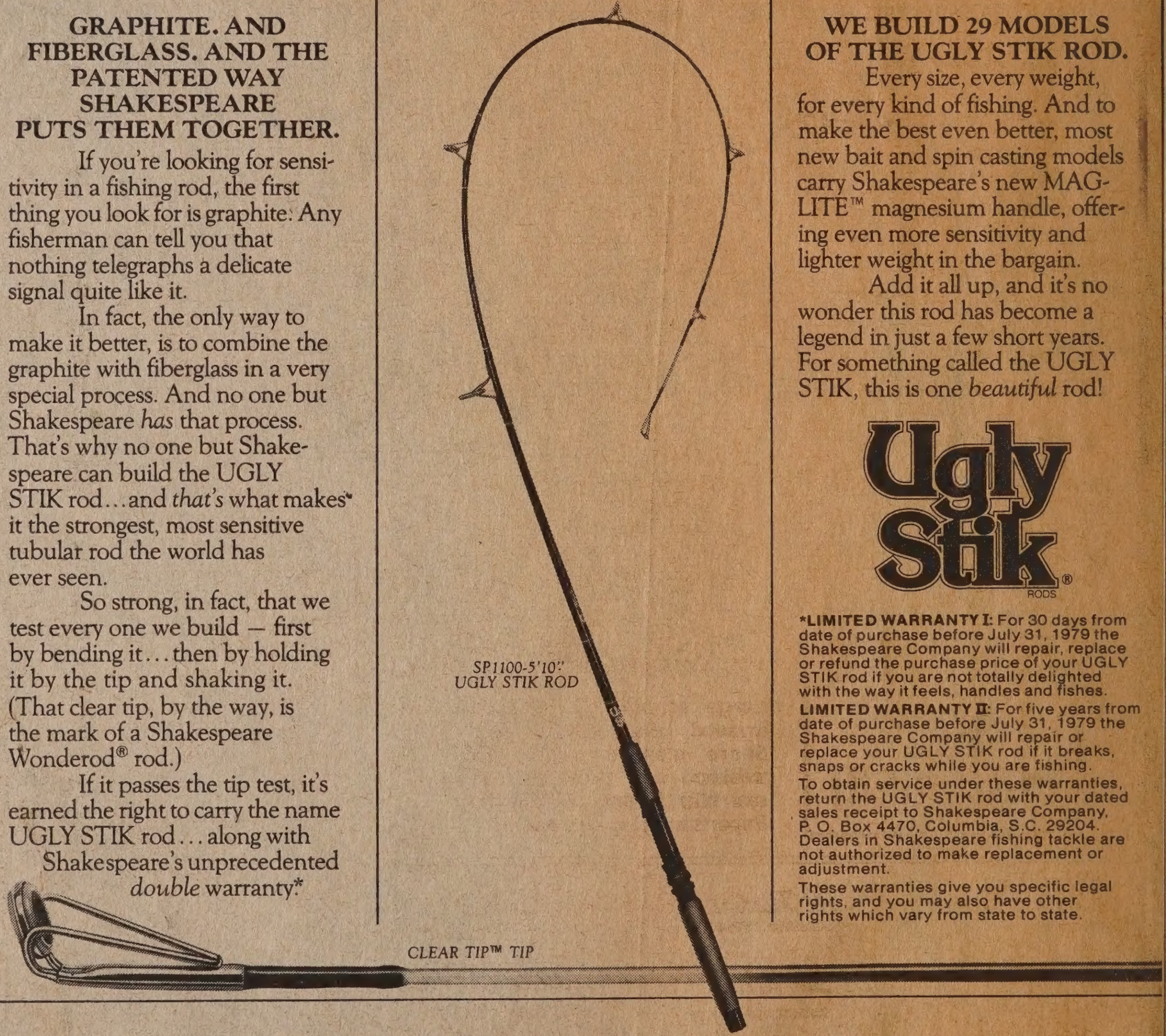

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RODS

***LIMITED WARRANTY I:** For 30 days from date of purchase before July 31, 1979 the Shakespeare Company will repair, replace or refund the purchase price of your UGLY STIK rod if you are not totally delighted with the way it feels, handles and fishes.

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To obtain service under these warranties, return the UGLY STIK rod with your dated sales receipt to Shakespeare Company, P. O. Box 4470, Columbia, S.C. 29204. Dealers in Shakespeare fishing tackle are not authorized to make replacement or adjustment.

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

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COMING NEXT WEEK:

MAY POTPOURRI

About the Cover—

Large schools of mackerel invaded Long Island's South Shore inshore waters this weekend and provided some real blitz fishing. See Fishing Reports starting on page 33.

Richard Reina
PUBLISHER

Al Ristori
CONSERVATION EDITOR

Pete Barrett
NEW JERSEY EDITOR

Scott Simons
MANAGING EDITOR

Stu Miller
ADVERTISING MANAGER

Tim Coleman
NEW ENGLAND EDITOR

Dr. Wm. A. Muller
EDITOR

Rich Reina Jr.
PRODUCTION MANAGER

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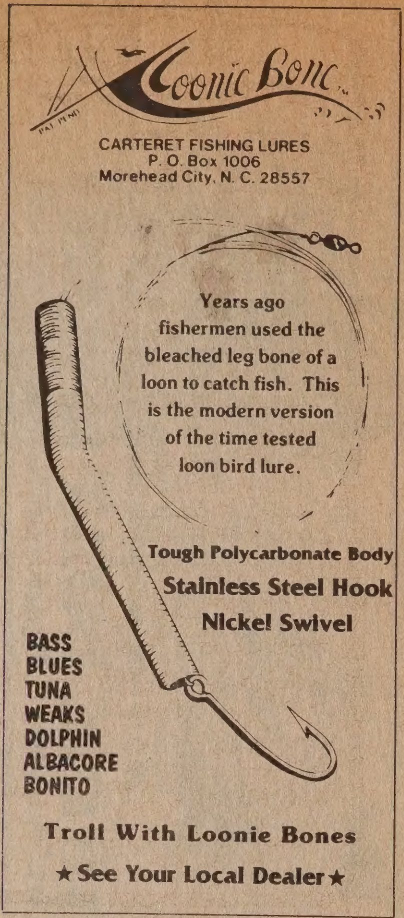

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Pass It On...

WEEKEND "FISHING REPORT" WITH AL RISTORI TO BEGIN ON WCBS NEWSRADIO 88, APRIL 7

Starting April 7th, and continuing on a Friday-thru-Sunday basis thoughout the summer, WCBS Newsradio 88 is presenting a weekend series of fishing reports with Al Ristori. The broadcast times are: Fridays at 5:21 PM, repeated at 8:49 PM and 10:24 PM; Saturdays and Sundays at 5:25 AM, 6:48 AM, repeated at 7:57 AM and 8:21 AM.

Newsradio 88's weekend fishing report will provide timely information on what types of fish are running, the likeliest waters to fish, and the best ways to go about it.

Al Ristori is a well-known freelance writer and photographer. His articles have appeared in leading national magazines including Field & Stream, Outdoor Life and Sports Afield. He is the editor of Field & Stream's new Fishing Tackle and Accessory Buying Guide.

Ristori is a member of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and Chairman of the Emergency Committee to Save America's Marine Resources.

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON SOUND DUMPING

The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers will hold a public hearing on the Composite Management Plan for Long Island Sound on May 3, at the Huntington Elementary School on Lowndes Avenue in Huntington. It will also conduct hearings on the dumping at Fisher's Island of dredge spoil from Groton, Ct., on May 9, at 7:30 p.m. at Greenport High School, Southold, N.Y.

The New York Sportfishing Council urges all fishermen and citizens who have a stake in the purity of our waters to speak out at these meetings. The Army wants to dump on us again. Let's tell them where to dump it.!

UNCLE JOSH NAMED 1978 FISHING TACKLE MFR. OF THE YEAR

At the National Sporting Goods Trade Show, held recently in Chicago, the Uncle Josh Bait Company was named 1978 Fishing Tackle Manufacturer of the Year. The award, considered by many to be the "Oscar" of the Sporting Goods Industry, was presented by representatives from the Sporting Goods Dealer, a leading publication.

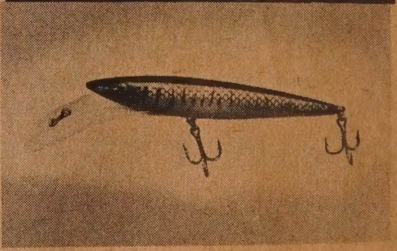
The coveted "Leadership Awards" are an 18-year tradition, honoring members of the sports/recreation and leisure industry who make outstanding contributions in their field of endeavor. Award winners are nominated and voted on by fellow members of the industry. In assessing the company's position in American tackle manufacturing, one nominator stated, "Their factory is completely run the way a factory should be; no other factory has a better attitude; they are simply outstanding."

In spite of the firm's dominance in their specialized field, one nominator noted, arrogance is absent and "the customer is always right. Uncle Josh has been overlooked because they are too nice, too kind."

The Uncle Josh Bait Company was created in 1922, when Alan P. Jones, Sr., and Urban J. Schriener ran out of live frogs on a fishing trip in northern Wisconsin. That day, they cut the first pork frog from a piece of fatback and in so doing, carved a prominent niche in the American lure market. They started the firm as a hobby and named it after an older man who fished the same spot they favored.

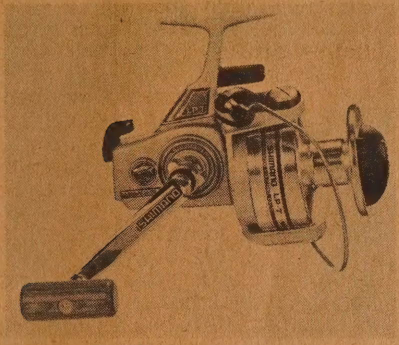
Today, Uncle Josh is the world's largest manufacturer of pork rind baits with over 34 patterns in a variety of sizes and colors. Operations are directed by General Manager Jim Vander Mause and Controller Gary Vander Mause. Alan P. Jones, Jr. is President of the Company. Pork rind baits are still the principle product; however, the company also markets a line of Scent Baits, both doughball and dip style, a complete line of salmon eggs and a variety of artificial lures. Uncle Josh products are distributed in the United States, Canada, Europe and Japan.

New Products



NEW FAST SWIMMING ARBOGAST ARBY

Slim baitfish body shape with an oversized clear plastic lip gives the new Arbogast Arby® a realistic, fast swimming action. Floats at rest; dives deep even on a slow retrieve. Designed to look and act like a natural foodfish, it's an ideal lure for all predator game fish that feed on minnows. According to Dick Kotis, Arbogast President, the realistic swimming action took three years to perfect in test tanks and under actual fishing conditions. The Arbogast Arby comes in three freshwater sizes and an extra strong, 1½ oz. saltwater model. The Fred Arbogast Company, 313 W. North St., Akron, OH 4403.

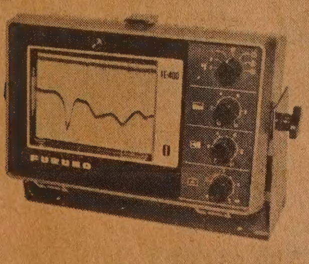


SHIMANO'S LP—7

The "big fish" fisherman's choice in a skirted spool surf reel; a powerful performer from beach, bar, jetty or boat. LP-7 packs all the strength necessary to handle the toughest saltwater game fish. Perfect for big blues, stripers, drum, cobia, tarpon, shark or barracuda.

Powerful 3.2:1 retrieve keeps even the 30 pounders in check. Dual ball bearings assure super smooth operation. Extra large forged-machined spool is incredibly strong and holds over 400 yards of 17 lb. test—that's a line capacity that few fish can run away from. On the cast, the wide-open bail allows line to peel off the spool unhindered for greater lure speed and improved casting distance. Convenience features include a Safe-fold handle that folds flush against the reel body and converts to left or right hand retrieve—an impact trip bail that boasts a manual closing option and man-size hardwood handle grip that's as good-looking as it is functional.

See the LP-7 at better sporting goods stores, tackle dealers or write: Shimano American Corp., 1133 Ave. of the Americas, New York, NY 10036.



COMMERCIAL SOUNDER BY FURUNO

A new small commercial quality echosounder, the FE-400, has been announced by Furuno. This new sounder features straight-line recording on four-inch dry paper and is housed in a rugged die-cast aluminum cabinet, fully gasketed for protection against the tough marine environment. Even the detachable front viewing window is gasketed. This weatherproof design, plus standard trunnion mount, permit installation almost anywhere it is convenient.

The FE-400 makes it easy to locate fish schools, wrecks and obstructions while tracking bottom contours with high definition. A high sensitivity amplifier provides a full 100W output and 6 overlapping ranges to 240 fathoms (with a minimum scale to 15 fathoms) let you examine an enormous volume of water. Professional controls such as white line to detect bottom fish, TVG to effectively suppress surface noise, zero-line shift and continuously variable paper speed are provided. Three basic versions are available: Type A operates at 200 kHz to a maximum range of 90 fathoms; Type B ranges to 120 fathoms and Type C to 240 fathoms, both operating at 50 kHz. Both feet and fathoms scales are provided with each unit.

The FE-400 is supplied with recorder unit, transducer and 26' cable, trunnion mount, spares and accessories. The unit operates at 12VDC standard, with optional built-in power supplies available for 24 and 32 VDC.

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ability. If not satisfied, BoatLIFE offers a double-your-money-back guarantee. Terms of the offer are printed on each Bilge Cleaner label. An added feature of the Bilge Cleaner is the ability of this remarkable cleaner to neutralize odors such as bilge odors and fish and bait well odors.

Further, it is a most effective sail cleaner for nylon and dacron sails. It removes dirt, grease and grime when used as directed from most surfaces and fibers as well.

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For more info, write to manufacturer, BoatLIFE, Inc., 65 Bloomingdale Road, Hicksville, New York 11801.

NEW ZEBCO REEL PROVIDES 5TH CONCEPT IN FISHING

And now, out of an ultra-modern world, comes a new concept in ultra-light fishing.

Its basis is a tiny reel, called the Omega 144XL and developed by the folks at Zebco in Tulsa, OK., which brough the world the spin-cast concept in fishing almost 30 years ago.

It was only natural that they bring you this one.

It has all the earmarks of their other popular, high-quality products, plus more.

In some respects, it looks like a spin-cast reel. In others, like a casting reel. Examined closely it's evident, however, that it's a spinning-type reel, almost.

Actually, it falls somewhere between all three, incorporating all the advantages and good points in fishing that they can provide. (One thing is sure, no one will confuse it with the other concept ... it doesn't resemble a fly reel!)

It is set apart from other Zebco spin-cast models by a tiny "trigger" which juts out from the front, on top, so you can cast with ease, fast and instantly, with the reel slung under the rod like a pure spinning model.

With its spinning tackle advantage there's no need to worry about switching from one hand to the other for casting and retrieve, and the line is always right where you want it for the next cast ... at your fingertips.

Its closed-face feature assures that you won't have trouble with line control, or backlash, or wind blowing line from the spool. You can even use it to fish at night, without fear of line tangle.

The price of the new reel won't offend you, either. It can be purchased at leading tackle and sporting goods outlets throughout the nation by itself or in combination with an excellent, balanced Zebco fiberglas ultra-light rod.

Since it doesn't fit any particular concept, just ask for it by the number ... the Omega 144XL (or the reel and rod combo number 4144).

This recorder/sounder is loaded with features.

Die-cast aluminum cabinet
Built-in sun shade
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Plus. The Unimetrics 960 boasts the most sensible price around for anything approaching its superlative quality.

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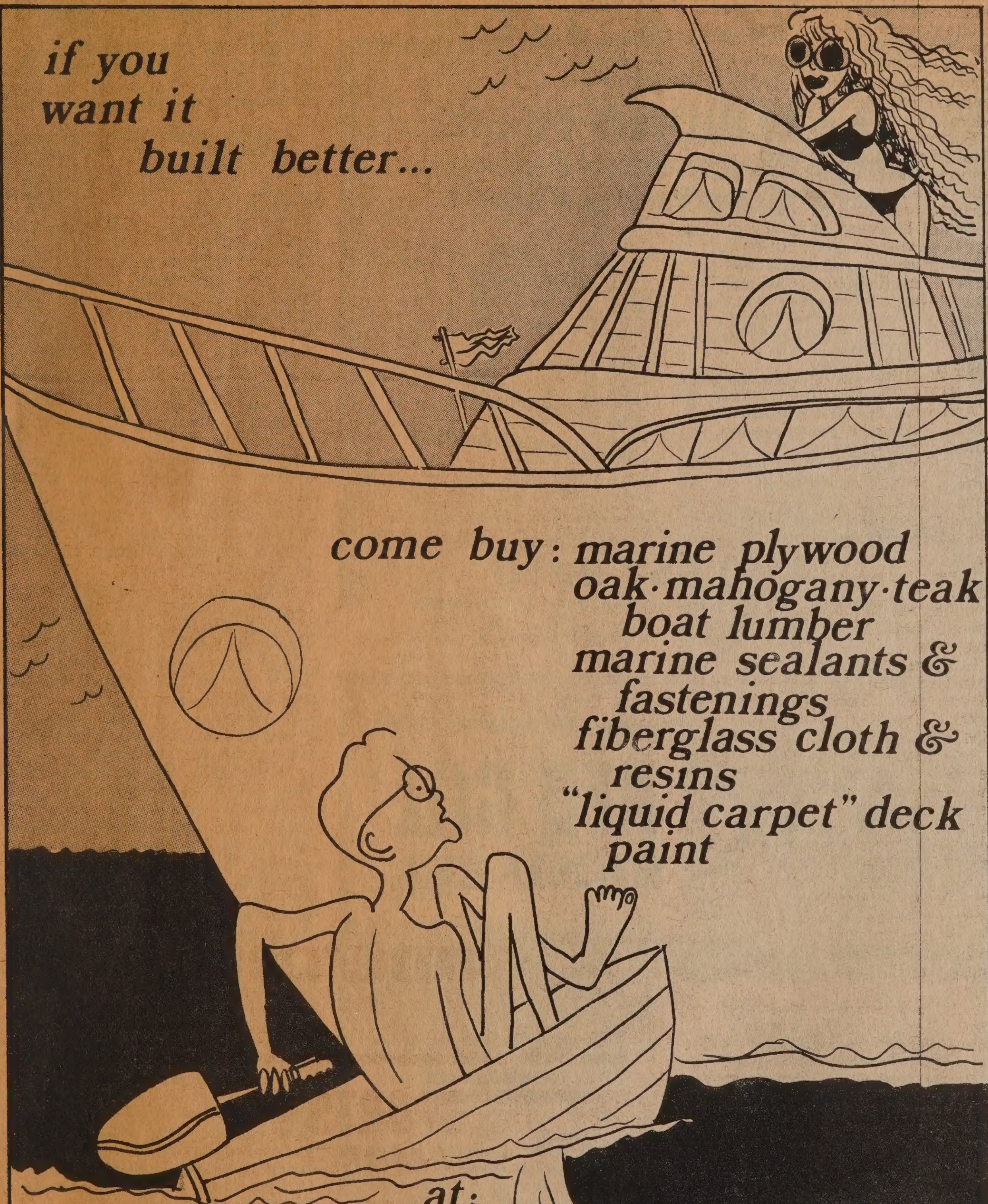

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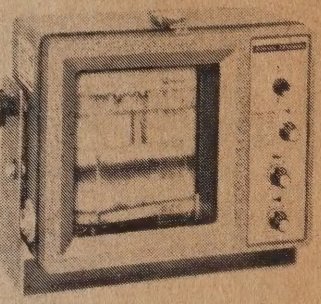

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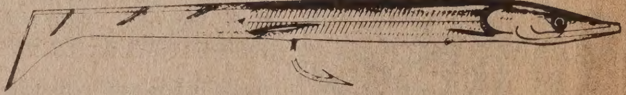
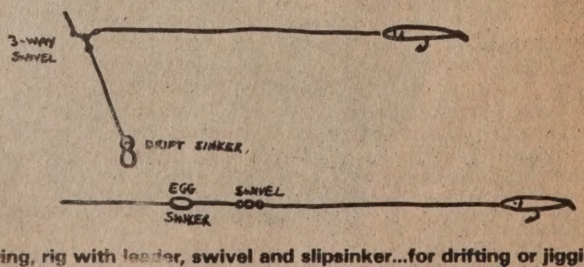


The *Red Gill Sand Eel* is an incredibly accurate reproduction of the Northeast's most common baitfish.

This versatile bait will take WEAKFISH, BASS, BLUES, COD, FLOUNDER and DOORMAT FLUKE.



For casting, rig with leader, swivel and slipsinker...for drifting or jigging rig one or more above a bank sinker...or use several on your umbrella rigs and make it work like never before! *AT YOUR LOCAL TACKLE SHOP SOON!!! Or write:*
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CHUM LINES

Enclosed please find a photocopy of a Resolution which will be acted upon by the Suffolk County Legislature at its next regular meeting on April 26, 1979.

The Resolution, which has been co-sponsored by Legislator Tony Noto of Babylon and me, requests the New York State Legislature to enact a law prohibiting the beam trawling and other similar netting of fin fish in the waters of the Great South Bay, and prohibiting the dragging of nets in the Great South Bay. Since I belive that this Resolution will be of interest to your readers, I would ask that you advise them of its existence so that they may contact their respective County Legislators indicating their support for the passage of same.

Of course, any comments and/or suggestions you may have will be greatly appreciated. *Louis J. Petrizzo, County Legislator.*

Resolution No. -1979, Prohibiting Bean Trawling & Other Net Fishing in the Great South Bay

whereas, the residents of Long Island are dependent on the Great South Bay for both recreational and business use; and

WHEREAS, the Great South Bay is one of Long Island's most important natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the State Courts of New York have overruled local ordinances protecting the Great South Bay from certain types of commercial fishing; and

WHEREAS, the continuous use of dragging nets in the Great South Bay will disrupt the bottom condition of the Bay, causing serious ecological problems; and

WHEREAS, if the present condition continues, there will arise very serious social conflict between the recreational fishermen and the commercial fishermen; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the people of Long Island; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, 1. That the Suffolk County Legislature requests that the State Senate, the State Assembly enact legislation prohibiting the beam trawling and other similar netting of fin fish in the waters of Great South Bay; and

2. That dragging of nets in the Great South Bay be prohibited.

15-YR.-OLD WANTS TO JOIN FISHING CLUB

I am almost 15-years-old and have been fishing quite awhile. I want to find out if there is any fishing clubs I can join. I will be getting my boat in April. And I can fish the surf. (Although I never caught a striped bass.) My father's not much into fishing; will not join a club with me. He doesn't have the time. I live in the Oceanside area, but I can travel. If there are any clubs that will take me, I would like to know. Thank you. *Ira Kitograd, 336 Thompson Ave., Oceanside, N.Y. 11572.*

WHERE TO PURCHASE THOSE ROD HOLDERS

Having just read the new product section of your March 15 Issue, I wish to pass along a personal thanks for displaying the rod holder picture and for the kind comments.

I regret to say the only thing lacking was information to your readers as to how they could get in touch with us—no address was included.

Perhaps many of our customers in your area will know anyway, but I would seriously doubt that the majority of your readers will know where to get in touch with us. "Lures truly" *Bing McClellan.*

Those readers desiring info on the subject rod holders should write to: Bing McClellan, President, Burke Fishing Lures, 1969 South Airport Road, Traverse City, Michigan 49684. Scott S.

SPORT & COMMERCIAL MUST STICK TOGETHER

On March 12, I attended the bluefish meeting. I was very surprised to see that many people there.

I am a boat owner; I keep it at Montauk. I am a recreational and commercial fisherman. One question that you asked—"Do you do most of your fishing within 3 miles of shore or more than 3 miles offshore?" Well, how far is the Sub Buoy, Cartwright Triangle, etc., not to mention places to the west. But how about the surf fisherman? Let anyone take a ride on a Sat. to Montauk and look down the beach; there's a lot of fishermen and that's not counting the boats. How about the big game fisherman? How many times did the bluefish save the day for them? What about the big game charter boats? I would like to have a dollar for every time the Captain told the mate to rig for blues on the way in. Having a boat I know what it's like to come back with a nice bunch of bluefish or nothing. I can remember in the late Fifties and early Sixties when bass were abundant as bluefish, but they are gone. Weakfish, codfish, fluke and flounder, not to mention the tuna—all going downhill. What Next!? When is it going to stop? We need to pass strict laws to protect our natural resources. People don't realize that we do need a commercial fishery. There are a lot of people who eat fish on Friday: they don't all go fishing, they go to the store. But let's not overharvest.

If we want any law to be passed, the sportfishermen and the inshore commercial fisherman must stick together and not fight with each other. If we don't act now on the bluefish, pretty soon we will be fishing out of a fish book.

I urge The Long Island Fisherman and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Fishery Management Council to do all they can to stop purse seining for bluefish on the Atlantic Coast. *Bruce Fradl, West Babylon, NY.*

HAS A "FEW" QUESTIONS ABOUT FISHING.

Hi, my name is Andy Small. I live in Great Neck and I am very interested in fishing. I read your magazine weekly and I am pleased every time I read it. I wonder if you could tell me and my pals where the good nearby fishing is. I am also puzzled on when the real fishing starts and the type of rod I should get for all-around fishing. Me and many of my friends would appreciate it if you would reply promptly. Thanks a lot, *Andy Small, Great Neck, NY.*

Unfortunately it is impossible to give you all the info you desire ... it would take more than a few books. All we can suggest is that you continue to read L.I.F. weekly, and eventually, all your questions should be answered. Scott S.

WANTS TO JOIN A FISHING CLUB

I am a resident in the Sheepshead Bay area in Brooklyn. I am looking for any information on any local boating clubs, for I am very interested in joining one. I own a 21' Mako center console. I would appreciate any recommendations on any fishing clubs (not surf) that you know of.

Thank you very much. Enclosed is a self-addressed envelope. *Joseph M. Grossman, Brooklyn, NY.*

How about it? Any boating clubs interested in an enthusiastic member? Write us and we'll print it. W.A. Muller.

BOATING

NYS YOUNG BOATPERSONS SAFETY COURSE

Youngsters ages 1o-16 are required by NY State Law to obtain a license to operate a motor propelled boat. The US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 19-04, is sponsoring a three-lesson New York State Conservation Department Division of Motor Boats Safety Course.

Registration and Course begins on Saturday, April 21, 1979, at 10AM through Noon and will run for three successive Saturdays at the Stony Brook Yacht Club, Stony Brook, NY.

All course materials will be furnished free by the State. Upon completion of the three lessons, a Certificate of completion and a license will be issued by the NY State Instructors, Rush Cox and April Anne Cox. For further information, contact Rush Cox at 751-7452.

FLOTILLA 19-3

"Ship Ahoy." Are you interested in knowing more about boating? Have you any perplexing problems? Do you need to know how to solve a boating situation? If you need to have any of the above answered or if you have any other problems, Flotilla 19-3 of Kings Park is offering a Public Education Course at the STPA Store in Selden, New York on Jericho Turnpike, April 28, 1979 beginning at 10AM.

Specialists from the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary will discuss and demonstrate communication, legal requirements, fire extinguisher, marlin spikemanship, etc. Films and slide presentation will be used to illustrate certain areas.

NEW BOOKS

boating
AND FISHING
CATALOG for 1979
Sears
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1979 BOATING & FISHING CATALOG FROM SEARS

The 1979 Sears Boating and Fishing Catalog has everything an outdoors person needs for the upcoming season. Features in the 56-page specialty catalog include:

A seven-page section devoted to fishing boats, canoes and sailboats; a complete line of fishing rods and reels; skin and scuba diving equipment, water skis, life vests, safety cushions; and electric and gas-powered outboard motors.

The catalog also gives pointers on what to look for when buying a boat or motor and includes water safety information from the U.S. Coast Guard.

A free copy of the specialty catalog is available at the catalog desk of Sears retail stores and Sears catalog sales offices.

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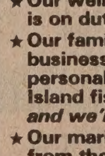

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Pass It On...

N.Y. SPORTFISHING COUNCIL URGES MAY 3 PROTEST AGAINST ARMY EFFORTS TO DUMP ON US.

The New York Sportfishing Council again requests that all fishermen, users of Long Island Sound, and their families protest on May 3, the continued dumping of Connecticut dredge spoil throughout the Sound by the Army Corps of Engineers. The Army-sponsored public hearing will be held at Huntington Elementary School, Lowndes Avenue, Huntington, at 7PM.

The Army has so much filth to get rid of it has hired a consulting firm to come up with additional Sound dump sites for the future. Since the corporations, who stand to benefit by dredging Connecticut's harbors, don't feel like paying to have the spoil disposed of upland, the Army figures it might as well dump it on us—after all, we're only fishermen and bathers.

The New York Sportfishing Council urgently asks that the citizens of Long Island demonstrate that they are not as docile as the Army thinks. Contact your legislators and sound off—loudly—at the hearing on May 3. Bring your friends to testify, especially those with scientific backgrounds and business interests in the Sound.

Let's tell our Government to stop dumping on us—once and for all!

AN OPEN APPEAL TO ALL SUFFOLK COUNTY FISHERMEN

Mike is 11-years-old, and is growing up without the guidance and companionship of the most important man in his life ... his father. Mike's dad died when he was very young, and he's never had somebody who'd take him fishing, or to a ball game, or who'd just be there when he wants to talk. He lives with his mother and sister now and, yea, he likes them and everything, but sometimes they just don't understand ... there's just some things a guy can't talk about with a woman.

Mike and his Mom signed up with us over a year ago to get him a Big Brother, and today he is still waiting.

We have over 200 boys just like Mike on our waiting list who are in great need of somebody to look up to, confide in, and brag about.

Call us and find out how you can become that somebody ... for Mike's sake.

Big Brothers don't give up time .. they just spend it better.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Suffolk County, 155 Indian Head Rd., Commack, N.Y. 11725, 543-6200.

NEW BOATOWNERS' LIABILITY KIT

The "Boatowners Liability Kit" has been introduced by Columbia Dynamics, Inc. This totally new concept is designed to provide, in addition to insurance, a further measure of protection for the boatowner against the possibility of liability suits brought by passengers, guests or crew. The kit includes three self-adhesive, waterproof, copyrighted **"CAUTION"** signs to be affixed in highly visible locations on the boat. These will warn those on the boat of the inherent risks in water sports and of the fact that they are responisble for their own actions. In addition, a pad of 100 copyrighted "Boating Liability Release" forms is included. These are printed on water-resistant bond paper and will provide further protection when signed by passengers, guests or crew. They also have space for listing minors under supervision. With the increasing problems of unwarranted suits and judgements against individuals, it is wise that the boatowner, especially, take as many precautions as possible. In most cases, the average liability coverage on a boat is insufficient to meet the demands of civil actions. The boatowner, in extending invitations to friends, is entering an area fraught with danger. The inexperienced or even the experienced, can easily injure, maim or kill themselves through carelessness or negligence. The most recent issues of major boating publications will attest to this fact. The "Boatowners Liability Kit" has been developed with these facts in mind. It has been conceived by experienced sailors well aware of what can happen after you leave the dock. The kit is available at $9.95 from Columbia Dynamics, Inc., 111 Bruckner Blvd., Bronx, N.Y. 10454.

NEW CAPTAINS' ASSOCIATION FORMED

We would like to take this opportunity to announce the formation of the Montauk Captains' Association (M.C.A.).

The purpose of the organization is threefold as follows:

1. to improve sport fishing on the Eastern Coast; 2. to provide for safe charter boating in the Montauk area; and, 3. to assist our members in fraternal and economics needs.

All approved licensed charter boat captains in the Montauk area are invited to join.

Please call Captain Frank Macarro, 516-929-4881; Captain John Wolfe, 516-744-9649 or Captain Tony Capra, 516-698-6014 regarding membership.

The newly elected slate of officers are: Capt. Frank Macarro, President; Capt. John Wolfe, Vice President; Capt. Fred Riege, Secretary and Capt. Bruce Kieffer, Treasurer.

Contests & Tournaments

BABYLON TUNA CLUB 23RD ANNUAL INVITATIONAL TUNA & MARLIN TOURNAMENT

The Babylon Tuna Club announces that the 23rd Annual Invitational Tuna and Marlin Tournament will be held on Saturday and Sunday, July 28 and 29, 1979 with the Captains' Meeting on Friday, July 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, Grove Place, Babylon, N.Y.

The following highlights should be of interest to all participating anglers:

$3,000 in prizes; revised fishing rules; Saturday night clambake (7/28); awards in individual and club categories; all awards will be made Sunday night July 29, 1979, following weigh-in. Entry fees: individual: $90 per boat; club: $250 per 3 boat team. NO ANGLER FEES!; free dockage at Babylon Village Marina and transportation to all functions.

Complete details and entry forms will be mailed within 4 weeks.

This tournament has been highly competitive and very successful in the past. We hope to make the 23rd Annual the best yet.

Anyone requiring addition information, may contact: Al Pasquale, Tournament Chairman, 516-567-5200 days; 516-422-6244 eves.

MASONS SALTWATER FISHING CONTEST

The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons announces the New York State Masonic Saltwater Fishing Contest.

The contest is open to all Masons and their families. Individual winners receive gold lapel pins, trphies, plaques, and scrolls in all classifications. Accumulative points within a Lodge by these participants will determine which Lodge will be New York State Champion.

For information, please consult your individual Lodge Chairman, or Bud Dorman, P.O. Box 913, Montauk, New York 11954.

RIVERHEAD SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

The Riverhead Sportsmen's Club is having a weakfish tournament, May 18, 19, and 20. There will be prizes for largest fish, men boat or surf; women boat or surf.

First prize - $100, trophy and spinning reel and rod (donated by Altenkirch); second prize $50, trophy and prize; third prize $25, trophy and prize.

Applications and $10 entry fee per angler, may be obtained and paid at main weighing station in Jamesport - Peconic Bay Blvd., N.Y. State Launching Ramp.

Deadline for entry is Friday, May 18, 6PM; deadline for weigh-in is Sunday, May 20, 2PM.

Trophies and prizes are to be awarded at a buffet dinner at the Elks Club, Riverhead, Sunday May 20 from 3-5PM.

CLUB NEWS

OAKDALE SPORTSMENS CLUB

At our last monthly meeting, the following were elected as officers for the year 1979:

President—Harvey Langabeer.
Vice-Pres—Artie Rappolt.
Secretary—Alan Fogg.
Treasurer—Bruce Bandes.
Corr. Sec'y—Dick Fuller.

I will be keeping you informed on a regular basis as to the results of our own tournaments and how we are in tournaments we enter as a club.

FARRAGUT STRIPER CLUB AWARDS

The Farragut Striper Club held its 11th Annual Dinner-Dance on April 7 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Valley Stream. Presented at this time were the following awards for the 1978 fishing season.

For the category Largest Bass Surf:
John Mastruddi, 47.12; Sal Russo, 46; Jerry Bernard, 43; John Persico, 37; Vito Orlando, 35.

For Most Points Surf: Vito Orlando, 1014; Jerry Bernard, 724; Steve Phillips, 644; John Fritz, 576; John Mastruddi, 480.

Largest bluefish from the surf: Jack Murray, 18 lbs.; Largest weakfish from the surf: Frank Domanski, 11 lbs.; Most tagged bass—Joe Scammacca, 44 bass; largest tagged bas—Vito Orlando, 28 lbs.; light tackle award—Steve Petri.

In the Boat Division: Bob Marin and Sal Caccavale tied with the most points.
Largest Bass Boat—Bob Marin, 33.9
Largest Blue Boat—Bruce Marin, 12.4.

Steven Petri took the Junior Anglers Award for the largest weak, a 10 lb. 6 oz. fish, and for the largest bluefish—7 lbs.

The Farragut Striper Club is one of the few remaining clubs which prohibits its members from selling game fish.

EAST BAY ANGLERS, INC.

The East Bay Anglers announced the following annual awards for the 1978 fishing season:

Blackfish—6.94, Bill Blitz
Bluefish—16.25, Howie Wilder
Codfish—42.75, Ed Feret
Dolphin—5.00, Mike Stone
Flounder—3.81, Sam Blasi.
Fluke—9.75, Norman Docteroff
Pollack—18, Dave Dweck
Porgy—3.25, Sam Blasi
Shark, Mako—222, Mike Stone
Striped Bass—40.25, Sam Blasi
Tuna, bluefine (trolled—53.12, Joe Sollano
Tuna, bluefin (chummed)—512, Ed Feret
Tuna, yellowfin—104, John Arena
Weakfish—9.38, Dick Rubin

JACKSON HTS. ANGLERS NEW MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Jackson Hts. Anglers are holding a membership drive.

We are a small (40 members) close-knit group of avid fishermen; we regularly charter as a group throughout the season from April to November to ports from Gerritsen Beach to Greenport, and out-of-state to Quincy, Mass. Transportation is by charter bus. Fishing ranges from flounder to tuna.

Looking for a few new members from the Brooklyn-Queens area. Applicants are requested to write or call John Bernardon, 151-54 20th Ave., Whitestone, NY 11357, 746-5410 or Hank L'Heureux, 37-33 84th St.

EAST BAY ANGLERS INC.

The following members have been reelected to a second term as the officers of East Bay Anglers, Inc.: President—George Smith; Vice President—Bob Harder; Secretary—Richie Giannoccora; Treasurer—Danny O'Neill; Tournament Chairman—Joe Denicola.

HUNTINGTON ANGLERS' CLUB

Forty members of the Huntington Angler's Club and the Mill River Rod and Gun Club of Bayville held a Flounder Derby. First prize—Ed Bracht; 2nd Prize—Bill Wilenski; 3rd Prize, Tie—Mill River, Buck Dawson and Bill Wilson.

SURFSIDE 3 TUNA CLUB

President Frank Sterlacci and SurfSide 3 Tuna Club would like to congratulate three members on their new boats: Mr. & Mrs. O. Runge ''25' Carver,'' Mr. & Mrs. R. Ferri ''28' Topaz'', and Mr. & Mrs. F. Walters ''25' Mako.''

Best of luck and good fishing in the coming years. Also to our new members: Vinnie De Fonte; Dave Clark; Tony Patrizio; Bob Anthony and Bill Galenti.

Don't forget our Shark Tagging Film on April 26, 1979. For information, Call Pete Sindone 286-8198.

FISH TALK

with Dr. William A. Muller

GREAT BLACKFISH & FLOUNDER DEBATE

IT WAS A SMALL REMARK IN PASSING, but, oh boy—what a kick! Little did I realize when I commented several weeks back about the possibility that blackfish and flounder might feed at night, that I would be feeding the fires of a great debate. I must confess, as I did then, that I don't really suspect that most fishermen will rush out to their favorite flounder holes at night. There is more at stake here than just the cooperativeness of the flounder and blackfish. Indeed, the prime times for these species occur when the weather can be brutal, and I don't relish the thought of freezing my toes off at midnight when I can catch enough to satisfy me during the warm hours of daylight. Nonetheless, there are some strong feelings about this out there, and here is another reader's feelings.

JOSEPH RYWELSKI WRITES. "Just received the latest copy of L.I.F., and have great misgivings about your column 'FISH TALK' on blacks and flounder at night. By experience, fluke do feed at night, especially on the down tide side of obstructions. Flounder and blacks seem to stop feeding at night (again by experience). I've many times seen them 'biting the bottom of the boat,' and stop dead after the last light."

JOE, I CAN'T ARGUE with you and I don't want to argue with you. Still, the antagonist part of me pushes me gently to raise an interesting point about night feeding predators in the same light. I agree with you and I don't really believe for one minute that the comment that follows truly applies to flounder or blacks; but, what the hell! Many times fishermen will experience that bass, blues, and weaks stop biting when the last light fades—even when they have been in a frenzy. Then, about a half-hour after dark, they may start in feeding all over again. I remember when I was a young whippersnapper that I'd frequently leave the beach at dark because the fish would stop biting. One day, this old-timer comes over to me and asks me where I'm going. Of course, I tell that the action's over, so why hang around. He tells me, not so politely, that I'm nuts and that in about a half-hour the fish will pick up where they left off. I didn't believe him, but then, I had no place in particular to go either; so I stayed and at 3AM I was still taking fish next to this old guy. He suggested to me, while we sat waiting for time to pass in the early evening, that it sometimes take a little while for the eyes of the fish to adjust to the dark. Who knows what the reason is and maybe he was right, but I have been a witness to many a repeat of this scene.

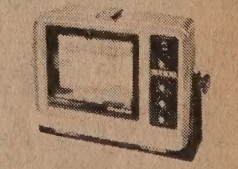
JOE CONTINUES. "One night settled it for me with blacks. While working the Shoreham jetties for fall blues between 10PM and midnight, we chanced upon a diver picking lobster (a couple of years ago). After the usual 'how-u-doings', the diver told of a four or five pound black, sound asleep in the rocks. The diver would touch it and it would move a bit and then right back to sleep again. Blackfish don't, and I haven't heard, take worms fished for bass around those rocks at night; but the same rocks produce blacks on worm in daylight. Also, crabs are more active at night around those same rocks. I would be happy if you could prove it one way or the other, but it is still my bet 'no blacks or flounder' at night."

CONCERN OVER BAY NETTING. We first began to receive letters on this topic back in December. At first, the information provided in the letters was sketchy and our investigations didn't indicate that there was any great problem. But our readers are really on the ball. Not only can they smell out an existing problem, but they can also anticipate how changes in the law, or regulations, or people habits might have great impact on our fishing. We really have to compliment you folks—you are an intelligent, well informed, and analytical group. We have continued to keep tabs on the problem, and during the interim, the New York Sportfishing Council has become interested, Newsday has commented, and the general fishing public is increasingly concerned. The following letter is typical of those received.

JOSEPH W. LEE OF MASSAPEQUA writes. "I am writing to express my concern over the netting and combing that is going on in the bays of Long Island. I am hoping that you will bring this to the attention of your readers. Attached you will find a copy of a letter I have written to Mr. Taormina (Director of Marine and Coastal Resources) of the Department of Environmental Conservation."

CRISIS ACTION ONLY. The Department of Environmental Conservation has, regrettably, taken their usual position. I am not arguing for any particular action on this matter by stating that the NYS DEC has repeatedly demonstrated a lack of interest in problems or potential problems until we are faced with a crisis situation. Their posture on this matter is, therefore, consistent with past performance. They have said that the resources of the marine district should be equally available to all residents of the State. On the surface, that sounds like a very reasonable point of view. However, let's look at some of the possible implications. Does that mean that if all of us decided to give up our normal jobs and make an assault on the bays to rid them of every fish, that this is "okay" with the DEC? Whatever became of management, conservation, and environmental protection? The DEC has said that should bay netting prove harmful to the ecology of the habitat, that they would take a different position. Does that mean that if we all—commercial and sport fishermen alike—began setting off depth charges in the bays in order to facilitate the harvest, that the DEC would say no, you can't do that? Or would they say, "let the boys play; they're having a good time?"

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A GENIUS! I am not arguing for rapid legislation to end all bay netting (dragging). This isn't an editorial



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demanding immediate legislation, but it is a discussion of a need for a more enlightened approach to fisheries and habitat management by those whose charge it is to do so. Hey, fellas of the DEC, couldn't you at least say that you'd investigate the situation and then really look into it? You don't have to be a genius to figure out that dragging nets all over the place in the bays, stirring up copious quantities of silt and mud, burying eggs, and disturbing the spawning cycles of flounder and a host of other species of marine life can't be good for the habitat and before we presume that everything is fine and dandy, maybe—just maybe—we had better get in there and find out if, indeed, things are okay. We don't know that dragging in the bays is either harmful or harmless, but a little research might find out, especially in a case like this where the logic of the situation says that all this disturbance can't be good for things. How could I be so stupid; the self-defined job(s) of the DEC doesn't call for research, and they have said repeatedly that they want little to do with research in spite of the fact that the people of the State of New York are depending upon them for research so that the Department can be the guardian of our precious environments. So, how does the DEC propose to find out if the dragging, recently begun because local laws were overturned, is harmful? Is the crystal ball in exceptionally fine working order?

WE'VE BEEN ASKING THESE QUESTIONS IN DIFFERENT forms for a long time. We have asked why dragging creeks out in the east end is allowed when we know that there are blueclaw crabs wintering over in the mud, some flounder, and other species of fish, too. We have stated that we believe that habitat protection—especially spawning habitat protection—is an important and immediate priority. The DEC says that it agrees, but takes no stand on prohibiting what appear to be harmful activities in prime spawning areas such as bays, creeks, sounds, and harbors. Word games bore us! What's the real story here? Is it protect the commercial fishermen at all cost time again, in spite of recent statistics that show that there are about THREE MILLION marine anglers in the New York Marine District with a total economic impact in excess of $400 MILLION! We stand at a point now where real commercial draggers have no interest in the bays because the fish are too small and the debris abundant (something that deserves a little soul-searching from our tribe), nobody currently depends upon bay dragging for a living, and the DEC is protecting a small group of baymen and, unfortunately, sport fishermen who seem to be undisturbed about the possible ecological damage that could be caused by

(Continued on page 45.)

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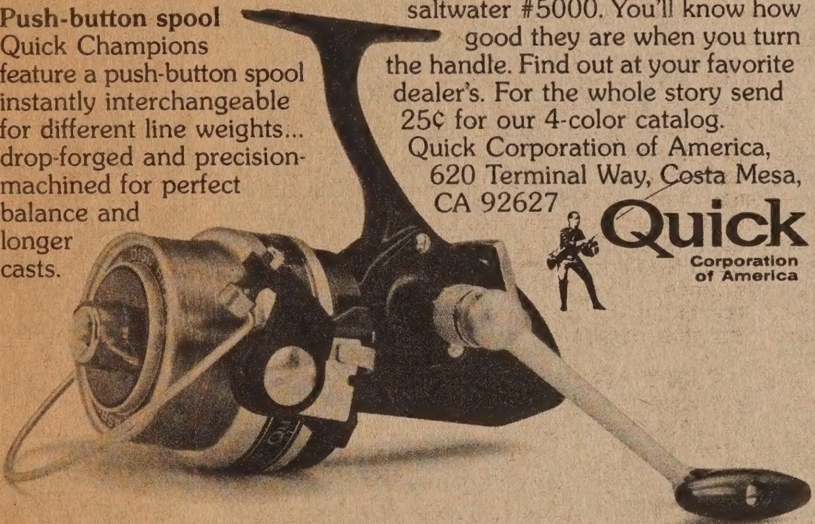

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Freshwater Fishing

with Angelo Peluso

Early Season TROUT

Upon leaving the stream, I felt satisfied that I had managed to tempt and catch a few early season trout with artificials—specifically streamer flies and wets. After a long winter layoff, these few fish were just what I needed to bolster confidence in my fish-catching abilities. Yes, the brookies and rainbows were hatchery raised, and yes, they were recently stocked but, nonetheless, they took to the fly early and made for an enjoyable outing; unfortunately, the fish were small. It would have been a lot nicer to start the season with bigger fish, if only to lay a foundation for the angling days ahead—but the big fish didn't materialize this day. So be thankful, I thought, for who knows how well others fared today. On my way home, I decided to stop by a local pond where I knew a friend and his son were fishing. I quickly spotted Rich and Ritchie, Jr. and approached them with the classic angler's greeting of, "How'd ya do?", right on the tip of my tongue. But the visual impact of the fish on the stringer supplied me with an obvious answer. Now compared to the fish on the stringer, my "hatchery raised, recently stocked," ego-building trout seemed even smaller than they actually were. It's amazing how fish can easily humble the most avid of their pursuers. Well, attached to their stringer were a couple of beautiful Long Island rainbow trout. The two big fish, obvious carry-overs from a prior stocking year, measured 19¼" and 18¾". Incidentally, the bigger of the two fish was caught by the smaller of the two anglers. Knowing Rich, Sr. to be an avid fly fisherman and tyer, I figured that one of his feathered creations lulled these rainbows into a feeling of false security. But no, my assumption was incorrect. To the terminal end of both anglers' tackle was attached a member of genus Lumbricus, the good, old-fashioned earth worm.

The basic garden variety worm is probably the most lethal of all early season trout baits. It is a proven fact that early season conditions of runoff and its high-water effects can best be handled by worm fishing. This type of angling approach will have a great deal of applicability during the early days of the 1979 season since we have just about been flooded by rain. The unusually high rainfall has brought with it a very detrimental side effect. Our trout waters will be high, roily and muddy. But, if we think for a moment about another effect of high water, we might just turn a seemingly hopeless situation into a productive one.

The high spring water causes the water within the stream to overflow its banks. This overflow, in turn, washes many stream-side organisms into the stream itself. One such organism happens to be the lowly earth worm. Bear in mind that this presentation of the worm to the trout occurs as a totally natural act. A trout will, therefore, become conditioned to the sight of this food source and will readily consume it. So, what more logical and appropriate approach could equal that of presenting a worm to a fish already conditioned by nature to be on the lookout for this type of tasty morsel? Drawing from a variety of experiences and basic fishing facts, I can honestly say that this form of bait, used during the first few weeks of the season is nothing short of deadly. This has even more importance once we consider that the first of the true hatches doesn't begin until the latter part of April/early May. Though sizeable catches are made with streamers and wets, it is usually difficult to raise a trout to a dry fly, especially when there are no significant hatches.

For the angler wanting to make the most of his/her early season fishing trips, in terms of enjoyment and productivity, knowledge of worm fishing techniques can be extremely valuable; they work when other methods fail. It should be understood, though, that live bait fishing isn't the key to instant success. A reasonable amount of skill must be developed before the worm can be consistently presented in a natural fashion. Just as a sloppy presentation of a dry fly will spook trout, so will the same type of presentation with a worm.

I consider the "natural offering" concept to be the single most important part of early season trout fishing. In terms of stream fishing, this means that the worm should be allowed to proceed through a natural drift with no line drag. When fishing upstream, follow the float of the worm with the tip of your rod. Also, reel in line as the bait approaches your position. If this is not done, the excess floating line will cause the worm to drift at a rate faster than that of the stream movement. Once again, this will detract from the natural float of the worm. The bait should be drifting freely, unhindered by its attachment to the line.

In circumstances where I fish worms down-stream, I will steadily release line from the reel causing the worm to be carried by the stream's natural flow of water. At the completion of the drift, I will either bring the rod tip straight up and back, thereby causing the worm to move upstream, or I will retrieve the line by reeling. Upon completion of either of these two movements, I will allow the worm to drift back down again. This will allow complete coverage of fish-holding locations: the worm is guided to the fish.

Should you feel a tap during the course of the worm's down-stream swing, or notice a sudden halt to the drift, be prepared to strike, for it might well be a trout. More often than not, a worm that is worked close to the bottom will become entangled in some sort of obstruction, transmitting the sensation of a true strike. Time and experience will enable you to tell the difference between this type of entanglement and a striking fish.

Another subject of concern is that of weight. It is my preference to use as little weight as possible. If conditions allow, I will fish with only the weight of the hook and the worm. A worm fished in this manner will sink naturally, affected only by its own bulk. The absence of weight on the line also reduces the risk of having a trout spit out the bait once added resistance is felt.

Bearing in mind that we would prefer to keep the worm working as close to the bottom as possible, it might be necessary, depending on stream conditions, to add varying amounts of split shot. Our objective is to keep the worm both near the bottom and drifting with the current. It is a good general rule to use only that amount of weight needed to satisfy these two conditions. What you definitely don't want is an overweighted leader that will cause the worm to settle motionless on the bottom.

For those fishermen whose early season trout preferences take them to lakes and ponds, the same basic concept holds true. If and when trout are located, a free-floating worm, allowed to sink, then worked off of the bottom, works very well. If your patience doesn't allow you to wait out a drop over deep water, add appropriate amounts of split shot. This will be necessary only if the fish are holding in very deep water.

As far as rigging the worm bait, you might want to consider the two following alternatives. If the worm is to be fished free-floating, tie a size #8 or #10 hook directly to the monofilament. If conditions force you to use a bit of additional weight, prepare an eighteen inch leader of two or three pound test; then place split shot about eight to ten inches above the hook. The worm itself should be placed on the hook by pushing the point of the hook through the worm's collar. Hooked in this manner, a worm has a greater chance of remaining livelier longer.

Should you find that early season conditions put a damper on your fly fishing efforts for trout, give the worm a try. It can do the trick when other methods fail. Good fishing.

Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

SPRINGTIME FISHING

Know what I like best about the month of May? What a foolish question for a fisherman to ask—the answer is so obvious. The air is balmy (or at least it will be soon), the trees have leafed, their cooling pledge of welcome shade renewed; the Robins have returned with their promise of another summer at hand, the terns will have been spotted by the third or fourth day; all Nature is in full flower. But best of all, the fish have shaken off the doldrums of winter. It is the changeover period, the time when Nature makes up for all the dreariness of winter—the time when we fishermen find it most difficult to resist the call. Husky May flounder are growing fatter and scrappier with each passing day. For the sharpie, there might even be a weakfish or two by April's end—certainly by Mother's Day. Mackerel are working up along the New Jersey Coast, soon to arrive off Long Island in astronomical numbers. The vanguards of hungry sea bass soon will be on hand; and when this happens, can the scrappy porgy be far behind? And what about the pugnacious blackfish? The offshore and inshore grounds will soon play host to countless numbers. And ling? Ah, yes, good old ling; friend to beginner and veteran alike. Got a good-sized fish bucket? Go fill it with bait-happy ling. Fluke? What about fluke? Some are already in inshore waters, available for the early bird fluke fisherman who knows his stuff—perhaps even as you read this—but certainly by mid-month.

How good will fluke fishing be this spring and summer? Keep your fingers crossed and hope for the best. Maybe we'll be pleasantly surprised—and maybe not; but there will be some around for the catching ... of that you can be certain. Perhaps this will be the year when true fluke sharpies come into their own. Only time will tell.

But one thing is certain: we sinker bouncers welcome May—the perfect month—with open arms.

With all these fish on tap, or soon to be very shortly, what's first on the agenda? From my own experience, I'd say it is a toss-up between ling and mackerel. Each are easy enough to catch; therefore, the choice is up to the individual fisherman. One hitch, though: while ling are available right now, it may be a week or ten days before those huge schools of mackerel arrive. Exactly when this happens depends much upon water temperature; therefore, refrain from rushing the season on these fish.

By now, I'm sure you will have heard that perennial rumor that mackerel are already being caught somewhere in the vast New York Bight; but from my own experience over many years, I would certainly wait until the end of the first week of May ... unless you personally know someone who has scored. The forerunners of these vast schools are flighty, to say the least. Here today, gone tomorrow. I would definitely wait until the fish have settled. You've waited since last spring—so what's a few more days? But don't wait too long. Good Long Island mackerel fishing only lasts about two to three weeks—rarely longer. The fishing reports in the LIF will let you know in plenty of time to get out there and reap a bonanza.

As for ling, you have all spring to take advantage of those high catches that are so common. May is certainly a good ling month, especially around the Ambrose Tower Grounds and vicinity. Often you will find whiting mixed in with them. The entire month of June into early July finds ling being caught from local wrecks by fishermen dunking bait for sea porgies and humpbacked bass. However, if you have the availability of a good freezer, May is the time to fill it. These fish keep exceptionally well (as do all bottom fish) and you are sure to have many succulent meals, and also save a bundle on the food bill.

As for flounder in May, this is the month you'll find better fishing near cooler ocean inlets. The flatties are now definitely on the move and by mid-month will most certainly be congregated in these inlet areas. This is also the time to put faith in blood and/or sand worms. It also won't hurt to bring along an extra outfit just on the possible chance you'll snag your first fluke of the year. This frequently happens and the chances of success are always good. A two or three foot leader, a 4/0 Carlisle hook, and a lively two inch killie will help you to score. If the killie is frisky, you can fish a dead line while you concentrate on the flounder; any available fluke will find it.

As for sea bass and porgies, you'll have some chance of succeeding with the bass. Porgies, outside of the spawning run that enters the Peconics, are rarely caught in great numbers before sea bass arrive. Commercial fishermen still take the first porgies in their traps (usually sometime in April), but we sport fishermen must wait several more weeks; quite possibly into June. But once the porgies arrive, there will be enough to satisfy all hands. The first sea bass are usually caught at the beginning of May—but only sporadically and in small numbers; however, by the third week, they will take up housekeeping in full force on the local offshore wrecks. June, July, August, and into the third week of September, are your better months for sea bass.

What about that difficult of all bottom feeders to catch: the blackfish? Look for them in May around inlet jetties, rock piles, and other obstructed bottom when fishing inshore. For the offshore fisherman, any wreck, rock pile, fishing bank, rocky ledge, etc., will harbor these rough and tumble scrappers. While the average spring blackfish seldom outweighs those caught in the fall, there are enough decent-sized fish around to make it worthwhile.

As for fluke—what can I tell you that you don't already know? They have certainly been a big disappointment these past few years; not that none were caught, just that there have been fewer available for the amount of fishermen seeking them. But we've gone through this type of lackluster fluke fishing before. The last seven years of the Sixties were bad—as was the porgy fishing. But then, the porgies returned in force, and the early Seventies amazed all the wet blankets with a terrific show of fluke. Fluke, it seemed, were everywhere. For awhile I thought we were getting back

(Continued on page 17.)

On a cold first day of May, Matt proves that fluke are available to the inshore fisherman.

Surf Side

with

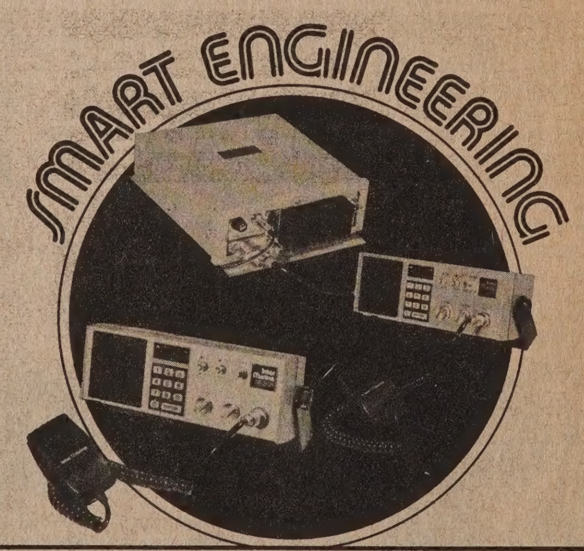
Nick Balamaci

BLACKS FROM THE BEACH

Each year as the welcomed sun of Spring begins to warm the somewhat frigid waters of Long Island Sound, we slowly begin to see an upturn in underwater activity. Many of the creatures who were practically dormant throughout the winter months, will now come out of hiding with a yearning to satisfy their enormous hunger. One such creature who can be depended upon to not only come out hungry, but to also come out fighting, is the blackfish. Every Spring, these bucktoothed, prizefighters move closer to the many beaches that border the North Shore of Long Island. Because the many rocks, boulders, and mussel beds that make up this shore line are the natural habitat of the blackfish, the North Shore is a sanctuary for these fierce, but tasty, bulldogs. Depending upon the weather, the fishing usually begins about the first week in May and will last until mid-June. Such proven blackfish grounds as Bayville, Rocky Pt., Mt. Sinai, Cedar Beach, Miller Place, and Wildwood State Park are just a few examples of the many areas in which blackfish can be found.

Because the terrain in these haunts are basically the same, the fishing techniques are also similar.

The first item on the agenda is the bait. Since it is Springtime and these blackfish are just beginning to feed after a long Winter of fasting, it stands to reason that their lips may still be somewhat tender. For this reason, a soft bait will outproduce a hard bait. As the water warms and the fish become more brazen, green and fiddler crabs can be added to the menu. But for now—go soft.



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Sand worms are the unanimous choice over blood worms. Because of the rocky shore line and other underwater obstacles, sand worms are natural to the area. Bloodworms will not produce as many fish. The universal clam will also play second fiddle to the sand worms. With the cost of worms what they are, don't overdo it. Purchase no more than two dozen, since you will have to cut them in halves, or thirds—depending upon their sizes. You will now have enough bait to last for an entire day of fishing, and then some. One point to keep in mind is that you have to constantly change the old water-drenched bait with fresh. Nothing catches blackfish like fresh bait.

I prefer to use the Virginia style hook in sizes ranging from #12 to #8. This type of hook is made especially for the blackfish. Tie these hooks in tandem and then place the rig three to four inches above the sinker. To tie a tandem rig, simply form a loop with the leader of hook #1. Place this loop through the loop in the snell of hook #2. Now take hook #2 and place it through the loop formed by hook #1. Pull tight and tie two knots, one with each hook. You will now have a strong, nonslip tandem rip. When you hold this rig in your hand, one hook will be approximately five inches from the knot, while the other will be almost a full leader's length away. At this time, you should also touch up the points of these hooks with a file. Blackfish have rather thick, tough lips and these sharpened hooks will help to ensure instant penetration. Even the most recent store-bought hooks should be touched up.

When baiting your hooks, be sure to thread the worms on, rather than stringing them. Place the point of the hook into the mouth or body of the worm, then slide the bait around the bend in the hook until reaching the knot of the snell. Be sure that the other end of the worm comes to rest just beyond the point of the hook. This is very important because if there is even a small part of the point protruding, the blackfish may shun your offering. These fish can be unusually particular about what they are going to eat, even if they are hungry. Now I know what you're thinking. How come, when using green or fiddler crabs for bait, there is a portion of the hook protruding from the shell? The blackfish will strike a hard bait in a slightly different manner than it will a softer bait. Also, the fish can see the hardened shell of its victims and may think that the point of the hook is part of that shell. I feel that this is the reason anyway.

A two or three ounce bank type sinker should be used. Avoid the use of the pyramid type sinkers, as they are more likely to get caught on one of the many underwater obstructions you will encounter.

Distance is not an important consideration when fishing for blackfish on the North Shore. In fact, I have found it to be true, that many times a person will overcast these fish. For this reason, I prefer a seven-and-a-half to eight foot medium action rod, fitted with a reel such as the Penn 710, Cardinal 7, etc., and filled with fifteen pound test monofilament. Outfits of this type are more than adequate to perform the task at hand.

To consistently score with these blackfish, you must be in the feeding zone. If you are fishing in an area for the first time, walk to where you see rocks or boulders sitting in the water. It is close to these rocks that the best fishing is likely to take place. There will also be smaller rocks that will go unnoticed because they are constantly submerged. To locate these, make a long cast. Then, with your rod parallel to the beach, keep moving your sinker along the bottom by slowly retrieving your line. (You will have a better feeling of the bottom with your rod parallel to the beach.) You should be able to feel the sinker smoothly sliding along the sandy bottom. When you feel the pull of rocks or mussel beds on your sinker, stop retrieving. Your bait is now in an ideal location for blackfish to be feeding.

When you do hook a fish, it is likely that she will head for the cover of the nearest obstruction. This is where your skill will come into play. At this time, you should hold your rod tip high and reel fast, until your line is out of the rocky area. Blackfish are little scrappers, and will give a very good account of themselves when hooked. So don't take them too lightly.

The best tides to fish the North Shore for blacks is two-and-a-half hours before until two-and-a-half hours after high tide. At these times, many of the rocks that provide a refuge for the blackfish will be totally or partially submerged. At low water, these same rocks may be sitting on the beach. Now you can see why you can overcast these fish. As the tide reaches the high slack stage, the fishing may slow down. It will pick up again once the tide starts to ebb.

Winds will play an important part in fishing these areas. If there are strong northerly winds—which will be blowing in your face—the waters are likely to become dirty and the fishing will definitely fall off. A southeast wind will produce, providing the seaweed is not too great. Both a south and southwest will also produce. In fact, these winds will have a further calming effect on the already quiet waters. A west wind is good, as is an east wind. However, an easterly wind will no doubt bring some rain and if too strong, will cause the water to be filled with grass.

Waders are not necessary since you will do very little, if any wading at all. A knee length pair of rubber boots, or even an old, cut-down pair of waders will serve you well here. With a few exceptions, the fishing locations will be a short walk from the parking areas. Wildwood State Park is one such exception. A sand spike can be carried, just as a pail or other suitable container for your fish should be brought along.

As you may have already deduced, this North Shore blackfishing is a leisurely way to spend an afternoon. With the calm surf and the gentlemanly fishing conditions, it is also an ideal place to break the children in to this wonderful sport of ours. There is plenty of room for them to roam, and also they can catch a few fish without the added worry of their being tangled with someone else.

This Spring when the urge moves you to get out of the house, you owe it to yourself to try the North Shore blackfishing. I know your pleasures will be many and feel confident that you can add a few fish to your bucket.

Good luck and good fishing.

SINKER BOUNCING

(Continued from page 15.)

to old times. I recall one May morning in 1973 catching nine fluke with nine successive casts while fishing Shinnecock Canal. It was that good. (Incidentally, I caught ninety-seven fluke that week in the Canal before landing my first throwback. This is not written to brag, only to show how good fluke fishing can be when man and Nature cooperate.)

But I guess that year was the summit of the fluke supply, for after that the catches began to dwindle, and every season became progressively poorer. Now it seems to me that only the fisherman who studies his quarry has the best chance to succeed. But for us fishermen, hope forever springs eternal, and who knows—this may be the year of another return to excellent fluke fishing.

I do know one thing, though (based on the past few years): if you want your best chance at fluke, you will find May one of the better months. This, however, doesn't apply to the offshore fishermen; but for the fellows who fish South Shore bays and similar areas, it often proves better than the rest of the season. My buddies and I have found this so many times. By the time late June arrives, the fisherman finds he must work extra hard for his fluke. Please don't ask me why. I have no explanation.

Now you know why I like the month of May. None other holds such promise for the fisherman. It seems Nature is begging our forgiveness for the rough winter and wants us to know all is well. Take her at her word. Get ready and do something about it.

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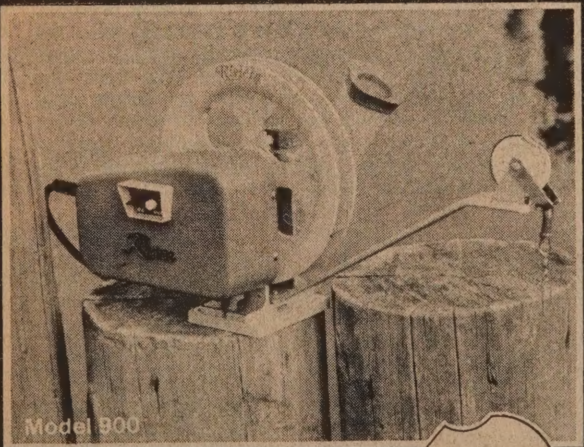

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INSHORE FISHING

with Fred Golofaro

GOING LIGHT

Anytime a discussion of light tackle arises, I never cease to be amazed at how many different conceptions people have of what is considered "light tackle." To the man who spends most of his time on ocean-going headboats for cod, pollack and bluefish, anything under thirty pound class tackle is considered light. To the man with a freshwater background, light might mean a wisp of a rod weighing less than two ounces. On ocean beaches, when surfmen speak of a "light stick," they are referring to a seven-and-a-half footer with eight or ten pound test. Understandably, many anglers tend to define light tackle according to the type fishing they do most often, rather than to the type fishing at hand. For example, that light surf stick toted along on a friend's boat for some weakfishing in the bay will do the job, but certainly cannot be considered light where a little freshwater rod with six pound test can fill the bill. The same can be said of using thirty pound tackle for fluke and flounder in the shallow bay waters where a light action rod matched with the smallest of conventional reels and ten pound test will result in much more enjoyment, as well as more fish in the box.

For our purposes, let's classify "light tackle" as being light enough to properly present the necessary bait or lure under the conditions you will be fishing and still be able to land any fish you expect to encounter. A properly set drag and avoiding making any mistakes will enable you to land any unexpected trophy that comes along. I am not advocating stunt fishing, though I see nothing wrong with it. Your average fisherman, however, is more concerned with landing most of the fish he tangles with.

Light tackle will put more fish in the box for you, provided it is suited to the job at hand. You don't bring a little spinning rod with eight pound test aboard a crowded party boat for bluefish unless you find something exciting about "walking the plank." The inability to control a bluefish under unusually crowded conditions will result in nothing but a lot of tangles, not to mention the wrath directed towards you by other anglers aboard. Good judgement in just how light you can go is as important as knowing how to handle your equipment. When livelining big stripers in areas where hooked fish must be kept from reaching bottom wreckage or other obstructions in swift currents, light tackle would be a foolish choice.

The advantages in using light tackle are many. First and foremost to many people is that it will result in more strikes and subsequently more fish. You will be able to present smaller and lighter lures when casting, which is often the ticket when game fish are feeding on small bait. When bottom fishing for fluke, flounder, porgies and such, a light, sensitive tip is a great asset in detecting those gentle tugs and nibbles. Lighter lines with their finer diameters result in less water resistance, enabling you to fish deeper or hold bottom with lighter lines or terminal tackle. This all makes for a more natural presentation of the lure or bait. Another advantage to such tackle is its light weight, making it easier and more comfortable to handle and a pleasure to fish with during a long day on the water. Also, each fish you hook results in that much more enjoyment as you discover fighting qualities you never knew the species possessed.

The primary reason so many anglers go overgunned is because they have become accustomed to using tackle they were initially introduced to—which was too heavy in the first place. A good percentage, however, simply underestimate the ability of their tackle. Some of today's rod blanks are virtually indestructible as often demonstrated by Shakespeare's Long Island representative, Dick Mermon, who makes a habit of bending the tip of a blank down to the butt in demonstrating the strain these rods can handle. Drag systems on most quality reels are silky smooth and enable an angler to land fish much larger than those for which the tackle was originally intended. This, provided he or she is properly schooled in the correct use of a reel's drag. Modern day lines are more abrasion resistant than in the past and line rot is a worry that we no longer need to contend with.

Light tackle adapts itself to many situations in our area. This coming season you might want to try going lighter than you are accustomed to. Make sure all of your gear is in top shape before doing so. Drags should be smooth with no grabbing; worn and grooved guides should be replaced, and line should be checked for wear. Also, use only quality snaps and swivels—which is a good habit to get into anyway. If you're accustomed to diamond jigging with thirty and forty pound test and six to eight ounce jigs, then think twice this season and grab a rod with twenty pound test and a handful of two to four ounce jigs. Or, if bottom fishing in protected bays and harbors is your forte, gather up some one and two ounce sinkers instead of your usual heavier leads with a rod to match and see if you don't end up high hook a lot more often. If casting is your game, then why not take along a rod that will cast those half-ounce bucktails, whiptails and small, lightweight plugs that are so deadly when small bait fish predominate, as has been the case in recent years.

Whatever your specialty, "going light" will be an enlightening experience and provide you with a lot more fun in the process.

Ray Solinas puts the pressure on a big striper with what most anglers would consider a flounder stick.

Striped bass up to 42 pounds live-lined with a relatively light popping outfit. Many would consider this gear too light for such work.

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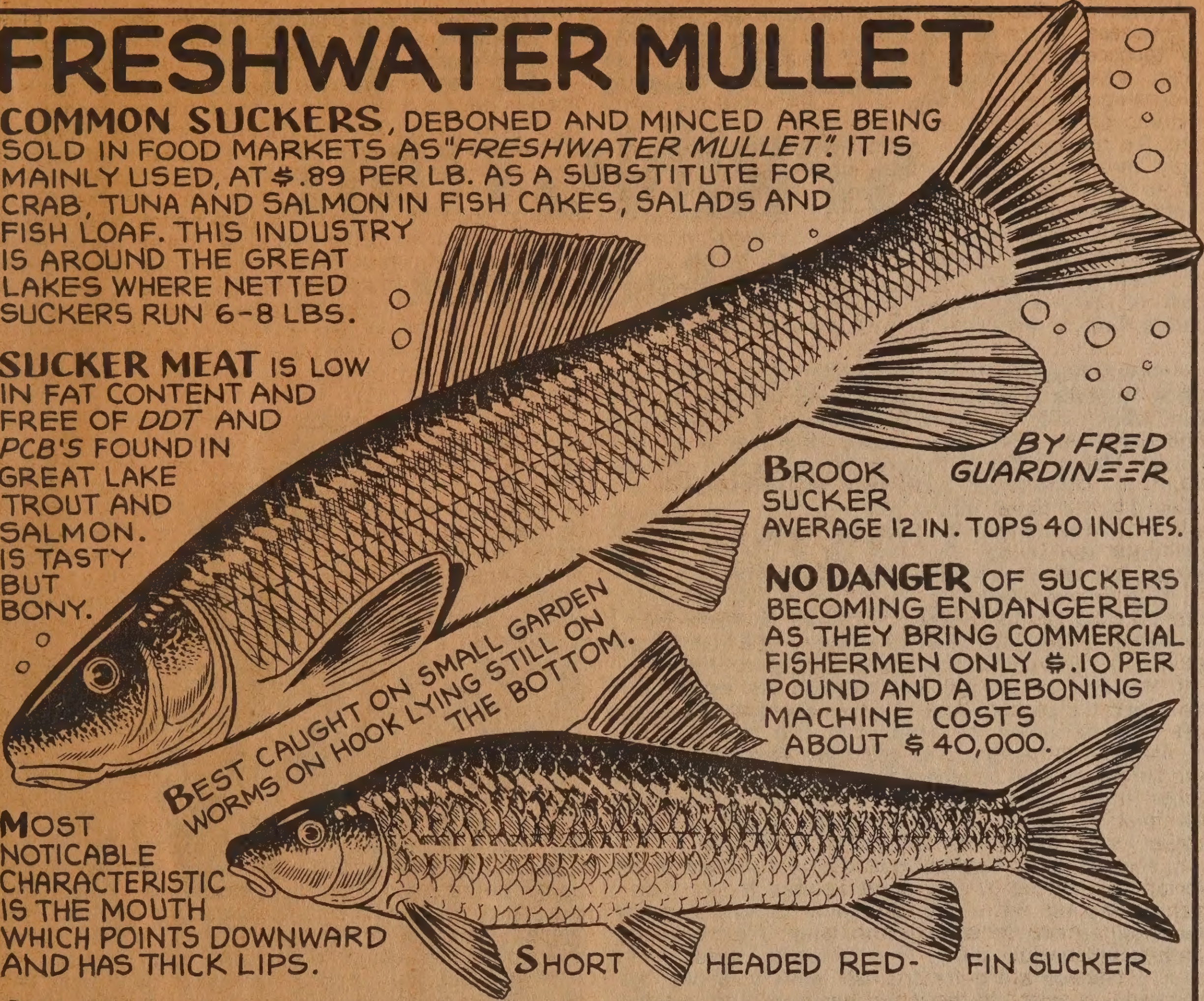
SUCKER MEAT IS LOW IN FAT CONTENT AND FREE OF *DDT* AND *PCB'S* FOUND IN GREAT LAKE TROUT AND SALMON. IS TASTY BUT BONY.

BY FRED GUARDINEER



BROOK SUCKER
AVERAGE 12 IN. TOPS 40 INCHES.

BEST CAUGHT ON SMALL GARDEN WORMS ON HOOK LYING STILL ON THE BOTTOM.

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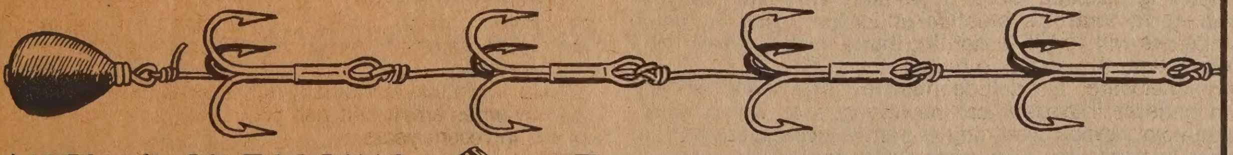
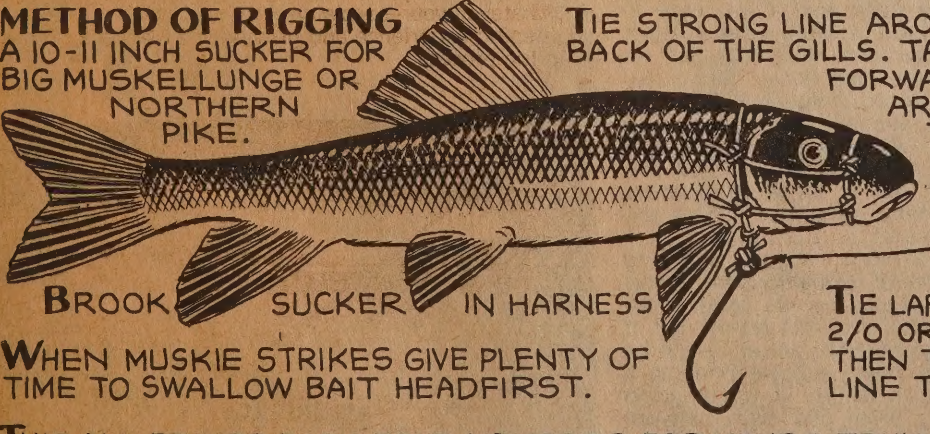


METHOD OF RIGGING A 10-11 INCH SUCKER FOR BIG MUSKELLUNGE OR NORTHERN PIKE.

TIE STRONG LINE AROUND SUCKER JUST BACK OF THE GILLS. TAKE LOOSE END FORWARD AND WRAP AROUND SNOUT AND TIE SECURELY TO LOOP BACK OF GILLS.



BROOK SUCKER IN HARNESS

WHEN MUSKIE STRIKES GIVE PLENTY OF TIME TO SWALLOW BAIT HEADFIRST.

TIE LARGE HOOK, A 1/0 2/0 OR 3/0 TO BODY LOOP THEN TIE YOUR FISHING LINE TO EYE OF HOOK.

THIS ALL BRINGS BACK FOND MEMORIES FOR YOURS TRULY WHEN FISHING DOWN ON THE FARM. IN MY MUDDY STREAM KID'S PARADISE SPRING SUCKERS RATED HIGH ABOVE LARGE CHUBS (OVERGROWN MINNOWS) AND ALMOST ON A PAR WITH BIG GAMEFISH SUCH AS BULLHEADS, SUNNIES AND EELS. THEY WERE COOKED UP CRISP AND BROWN AND SERVED UP ON A HEAPING PLATTER.

QUINCY IN THE SPRINGTIME

by Bruce Sucher

What Acapulco is to the sailfish addict, and what Cape Hatteras is to the channel bass devotee, Quincy Bay, Mass., is to the flounder fisherman. As a dedicated flounder freak, I've made many pilgrimages to this flatfish Mecca. Most of these trips were well worth the effort; but some ended badly with few fish caught, and vows that I'd never return. But now that I've thought about it, I realize that the bad days were—in their own perverse way—good. No, I'm not a masochist; I've simply learned from my mistakes. And, most importantly, how to avoid repeating them. So instead of writing the standard Quincy article, "I Caught So Many Fish I Thought I'd Died and Went to Heaven," I'll concentrate on the do's and dont's of a successful Quincy trip.

You should plan your trip between the last week in April and the second week in June. The spring weather has calmed down by then and the flounder are numerous and hungry. The cod have thinned out, but you should be able to pick a few. If your primary target is cod, then plan on going up from the first of April until the end of the month. Weatherwise, April can be a screaming horror, so keep all your plans flexible.

The fall run of flounder/cod is only a shadow of the spring fishing. But if you're determined to go, then I suggest the last two weeks in October. Before then, the water temperature is too high, and after that the fishing stations are usually closed for the winter. A few years back, I planned a trip for the last week in September. Naturally, I was prepared to decrease the resident flounder population. Instead, I wound up catching bluefish that were feeding under the large schools of bunker and silver dollar butterfish. Very few flounder saw the inside of my bucket. Now I like to catch bluefish—but I don't like to travel two hundred fifty miles to do it.

Trailering a boat is foolish. The tolls on the Connecticut Turnpike and launching fees would eradicate any savings. And any of the launching ramps I've seen up there are in a sorry state. And if you were to arrive at low tide, the launch would be further complicated by a hundred yards of mud flats. So, do yourself a favor and leave the boat home. But if you have an outboard in the five to eighteen horsepower range, then bring it. The standard rental motor in Quincy is a six horsepower. When you are bucking a bad tide, you make very little progress. You feel like getting out and pushing. A ten or fifteen horsepower would be ideal and you'd spend more time fishing and less in traveling from spot to spot.

In the rod and reel department, I suggest a light to mid-weight rod (conventional or spinning) and a reel filled with ten to twenty pound test line. By South Shore flounder fishing standards, that's a little heavy; but if tide forces you to go to an eight ounce sinker, you'll be glad for the extra backbone. I also suggest bringing a back-up outfit in case of tackle failure. If you're going with friends, you need only bring one extra between you. I advise against fishing two rods at once. When the flounder are suicidal—and in Quincy that's not uncommon—you'll be catching fish as fast as your rig hits bottom. With two rods you'll be missing more fish and waste a lot of time rebaiting.

I take with me a variety of bank sinkers from two to eight ounces. For the flounder, I prefer a #8 Virginia.

Steve Panico unhooks the first double-header taken on a cold April Morning.

There's always someone at Hurleys handy with a fillet knife. The fees are reasonable.

That's right—a blackfish hook. It's a very strong and fast hook and easily concealed in the two inch sections of sand worm you'll be using for bait. I snell them onto twelve inch lengths of twenty pound test leader material, but the commercially tied hooks are fine. Most popular in Quincy are the #6-4 Chestertowns, but I don't find them as effective as the short shank Virginia's. I tie two hooks in tandem directly to the line about an inch above my sinker. Two feet above them, I place a 2/0 Beak hook on a fourteen inch length of thirty pound leader. That's for the cod. These fish are small by our standards, averaging only a couple of pounds and rarely above five. Frequently, though, the cod will inhale your flounder hook. I guess they didn't know you'd gone to the trouble of fixing an offering just for them.

The bait you'll be using is sand worm and possibly clam. If two or three people plan to fish all day, I'd suggest a flat be purchased. That's ten dozen and if you think the amount excessive, just run out of bait in the middle of a blitz. The worms are dug in the Quincy area and the price is about half of what you'd expect to pay here. The quality of the worm is superior, so don't be startled if you open the box and see what looks like a tangle of boat constrictors. I use healthy portions of worm from two to three inches long, with the last inch dangling.

They sell clams in Quincy, but they are usually frozen and expensive. My first time there I bought a pint container of frozen clam for about a dollar. Inside was a single, decrepit skimmer. The fact is they buy shucked skimmer clams from our area. If you think fresh skimmer is a good cod bait, and it is, bring a dozen or more live ones with you. Use pieces just large enough to cover that 2/0 hook. When you run out of sand worms, you can use it as a second choice flounder bait. It is not nearly as effective as the worm, but it is better than using your buddy's pinky—the one who didn't want to spring for the flat. The next time I fish Quincy, I want to try fresh quahog or chowder clams for the cod. It's native to the area (unlike our skimmer) and I think it should be especially effective.

I'm not sure if chumming is worth the bother in Quincy. I've put clam bellies, corn, crushed mussels and crabs in my chum pot. It didn't seem to matter what I used. The only time it might work is when the fishing is slow. It tends to concentrate the flounder and cod in your area. When I'm really into fish, the chum pot is neglected and I don't think that affects my catch. If you do chum, be sure to use a heavily weighted pot. If you don't, the frequently heavy tides will pull your offering of clam, mussel, etc., far from where you're actually fishing. And if that chum does work, it will work against you.

When it comes to clothing to be worn, I tend to sound like a little old lady. Even if the weather report for Quincy is mild, I dress for the worst possible conditions. Over layers of thermal underwear, wool shirts, and sweaters, I wear my foul weather gear and knee high boots. There is no shelter on an open skiff and invariably there's an inch of water sloshing around in the bottom. If that bright, sunny day that was forecast becomes a cloudy drizzle, you'll be prepared. If you place trust in the forecast, then you also probably believe in the tooth fairy, so you won't notice the wind or the cold or the rain as it soaks through your light jacket. Still, I make the call for the weather in Boston by dailing 617-WE 6-1212. Ultimately, it's what all my planning hinges upon, so I should have a little more respect.

One way I've never gone to Quincy is with a large group or club. Normally a bus is chartered and arrangements are made for box lunches, skiffs and bait. The only thing wrong with this approach is that plans must be worked out months in advance and there is no way to forecast weather for that particular day.

Once I drove up to Quincy with two friends. We left Brooklyn at 11PM and drove through the night to arrive by 4AM. We fished all day in a bad chop, with gusty winds and sub-freezing temperatures. The catch was mediocre. Then we got in the car and drove back to New York. The return trip was a nightmare of near misses and coffee breaks. If you make the trip by car, plan on spending a night in a nearby motel. If time and finances allow, spend two nights and get another day's fishing. The motels cost about $25 a night for two; $35 for three—but that's a lot cheaper than a funeral or an extended stay in the hospital.

Quincy Bay is a large body of island-studded water. Where to fish is a problem. Before I leave the boat station, I get a map of the Bay and have someone familiar with the area point out the hotspots. I give each drop a half hour and if it's slow, I move. I also use my common sense. The edge of channels are frequently productive. Sometimes the shallow water in the lee of an island is especially good. But if my search is in vain, I'll look for a bunch of tightly grouped boats; preferably a few of them will be privately-owned. That will usually pinpoint pay dirt. But don't be afraid to go off on your own and try a hunch. I might add that a slow pick in Quincy is, by our standards, good fishing.

If you plan to go during the week, reservations are usually not required, but make them anyway. Call Hurley's at (617) 479-1239. You can also ask about the fishing. I've always found their reports accurate. Weekend reservations should be made at least a month

(Continued on page 45.)

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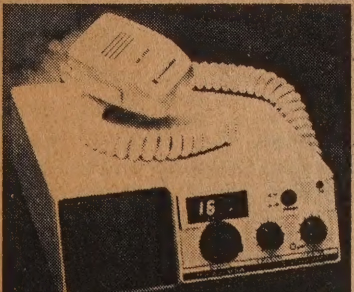

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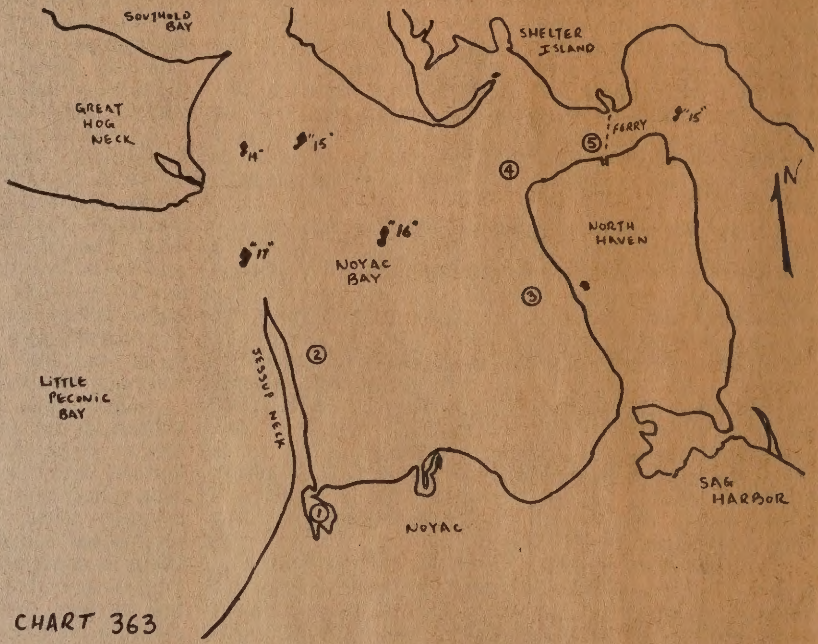
NOYAC BAY FLOUNDERS

by Bob Hunt



Your first question is where the blank is Noyac Bay? It's no secret. The Bay is about four miles across and is found on the west side of Sag Harbor and Shelter Island. Jessup's Neck and Little Peconic Bay (of weakfish fame) border Noyac Bay on the west. The Bay has a maximum depth of about fifty feet, and a median depth of around twenty-five feet. On the perimeter of the Bay are many areas where the depth drops off from under ten feet to over twenty feet. It is in these areas that the flounder are found. Flounder caught in the Bay average one to one-and-a-half pounds, with two and three pounders not uncommon. This is no "postage stamp" flounder area.

The flounder activity starts usually in early April with the water temperature being a factor. A warm winter brings the fish out earlier. By mid-April, the flounder activity is in full swing. Late April brings the mackerel into the Bay, followed by the weakfish in May. It is not uncommon to catch all three species while anchored in the same spot, as I'll explain later.

The tackle for flounder here is kept simple: use #5 or #6 Chestertown hooks, tied in tandem. A two or three ounce yellow bank sinker is fine for the Bay, but you'll need a five ouncer to hold in the channel area. The favorite bait is the expensive bloodworm. Mussels are just as good for bait and a necessity as chum throughout the day. Red-dyed clams can also be used. Experiment with all baits until you find the hot one of the day! Since you'll be fishing in about twenty feet of water, you must double anchor so you can fish over your chum and not swing around it. The best flounder fishing activity takes place on the incoming tide, but any moving tide will produce. Slack water is lunch or snack time.

For the latest fishing information on the Noyac Bay area, give Harry Smith of Noyac Marina a call at 725-3333. The Noyac Marina is a friendly, family-run marina business that also rents boats and sells bait. A free boat ramp is located next to the marina. To get to Noyac Marina, take Exit 8 off Sunrise Highway, Rt. 27, in Southampton. This is North Sea Road. Go two miles to Noyac Road, turn left. Go six-and-a-half miles to Lazy Point Road (opposite Noyac Hardware Store), make a left. The Marina is three blocks down on Lazy Point Road on the left side.

There are many productive flounder spots in the Bay and most of them are near dropoffs. Stay in one spot an hour, then move to another and don't forget to double anchor and chum with mussels. Some of the regular hotspots for flounder are as follows:

1. Noyac Creek: This is an early season spot. The water warms up quicker in this shallow water area. Fish the dropoffs from the flats (one foot of water) to the channel, six feet deep. Chum with mussels. The early fish are smaller, about three-quarter pounds, but larger fish can be mixed in.

2. Jessup's Bluff: I will never forget this spot. Nine years ago, in late April, I caught my first weakfish here. I had added a fluke hook and strip of squid four feet above my flounder rig. It caught a five pound weakfish, which we boated by using a clam rake for a net! The squid strip and flounder bait also caught a few dozen mackerel that day. We ended up the day with flounder, mackerel and one beautiful weakfish—all caught from a cartop boat that never moved from anchor all day! The bluff area is in about eighteen feet of water directly opposite the big sandy bluff on Jessup's Neck.

3. Monastery: On the east side of the Bay, you can see a large building on land, called the Monastery. Off the Monastery is a sharp dropoff. The water goes from nine feet to thirty-three feet. The thirty-three foot hole covers a small area. You may have to move around to find the hole, but it is often a hotspot.

4. Gleason Point: The water moves faster as you near the channel area. Fish the north side of the North Haven Peninsula in twenty feet of water. Double anchoring is a must in the faster water.

5. Ferry Slip. This is a popular flounder spot. It is in the narrow channel between North Haven and Shelter Island. Fish the south ferry slip area in about fifteen feet of water. This is a good spot to go to if the north wind blows on the Bay.

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CHOLERA IN THE SPRING

by Ron Onorato

While much of the ocean off the South Shore of Long Island is pretty much an even-contoured, barren area, as far as bottom structure is concerned, there is a fairly large ground configuration popularly known as the Cholera Banks—that breaks up this barren, hard sand bottom and forms one of the few natural South Shore reefs. Indeed, the Cholera Banks is one of the most popular and productive pieces of bottom to be found along the entire South Shore.

There are many stories circulating around the fishing scene as to the origin of the name Cholera Banks. According to one of the most popular legends, back in the late 1890s a schooner loaded with victims of the dread disease Cholera were denied entry to Long Island and were forced to lay at anchor some eight miles south of Jones Inlet. Apparently some enterprising lad with a little time to kill, dropped a line with a chunk of beef on a hook and sent it to the bottom. As it turned out, huge sea bass and porgies swarmed on the hook and the people on board feasted on a daily supply of fresh fish.

Chances are that such an incident never really happened; but is really the story of some windy sailor who had tasted too much rum. Nevertheless, someone did discover that there was indeed a very productive piece of bottom that produced large amounts of sea bass and porgies in the summer, and lots of big codfish in the fall and winter.

When the party boat business was getting started, the Cholera Banks was one of the most productive spots to fish. Because of its distance offshore, only the most astute of skippers could find their way back to the productive pieces; and then again only on clear days where they could get some sort of shore ranges. After the second World War, when electronic equipment became standard operating equipment, many more skippers tested the lively bottom. When weather conditions were right, it was simply a matter of anchoring the boat on one of the high spots, and watching the boat fill up with fish.

This fantastic fishing continued throughout the Fifties and Sixties and it looked like the action would continue indefinitely. However, dark clouds began gathering on the horizon. Towards the end of the Sixties, fishermen began noticing a change in the quality of the fishing. No longer did the Banks yield their large hauls of porgies and sea bass. The winter codfishermen noticed that fewer and fewer baccala were showing up on the rocks. As the early Seventies rolled around, it became apparent that the Cholera Banks was no longer that healthy piece of ground so many people had become accustomed to. Summer bottom fishing virtually came to a standstill; while the winter codfishermen would only stop there when all other prospects failed. Overfishing by foreign nationals, pollution, natural conditions, etc., were all cited as reasons for the decline in the productivity.

As we are about to enter into another decade of fishing, where does the Cholera Banks stand today? While the place is merely a pale shadow of its former robust self, it still has to rank as one of the viable fishing grounds off Long Island. While the vast majority of fishermen disregard the spot as a codfish producer, and zoom off to the offshore wrecks or open bottom grounds, little do they realize they can be passing up a veritable pot of gold. For a handful of knowing anglers, the Banks, while they may be quiet during the fall and winter months, come to life during the spring months. For the past few springs, the Banks have produced fair to good amounts of small codfish, and absolutely tremendous quantities of blackfish, as well as the ubiquitous ling. While the open bottom codfishing in the spring is a hit-and-miss affair, fishing the Cholera is almost like money in the bank. Once you get yourself on one of the productive high spots, it is

Dave with a school size cod that predominate the banks in early spring.

just a matter of waiting out the blackfish and bergalls and the codfish will come. You may only get a dozen or so small, five to ten pound cod, and a couple of hundred pounds of big blackfish—but what is wrong with that these days?

Locating Cholera today encompasses nothing more than running a compass course from Jones Inlet of 170° to 180° (depending on your compass) for about seven-and-a-half miles on a reasonably clear day, and looking for the lobster pot markers that dot the area. Generally speaking you're in the general vicinity when you reach the seventy-five foot depth on the recorder.

The area is reasonably large (about a mile or so wide and a couple of miles long), so finding the area is not that difficult in the event that the lobster pot markers are not visible. The actual reef itself is a series of hills and valleys with some of the high spots coming up to fifty-five feet, and around the offshore perimeter, the depth may be as deep as eighty feet.

Depending on what sort of winter we've just had, you can start making experimental forays to the reef as early as the first week of March—although the first week of April is usually the start of the productive fishing. The entire month of April can be very productive, especially if the weather remains on the cool side. Usually by the first week of May, the chances for bagging any cod are pretty remote, although you have a good shot at some blackfish right through the month. The only thing to watch for is the dogfish. The doggies show up when the water temperature gets up a bit, and they can be as much of a nuisance in the spring as they are in the fall.

Unlike open bottom fishing where you might have to wait for three hours or more before you get a chance at bagging some fish, on the Cholera you are primarily structure fishing, and the fish are either present or they aren't. It's primarily a matter of getting on a healthy piece of bottom and hoping there are some cod there. You can spend the whole day looking for the fish right on the reef or you can mix up a day by hitting some of the open bottom areas not too far away, and if it doesn't pan out, then move over to some of the lumps on the reef and take a shot there. I've found that this strategy doesn't turn out to be too effective since you're not really giving either option a good chance. If you want to fish open bottom, put in the whole day doing that, or put in the whole day on the reef.

Start looking for the high spots with your recorder; more often than not this is where the action will be. When you think you've found a piece or if you mark something with the machine, get a buoy over and mark the spot. Pull the boat up-wind and drop back to the buoy and hope that the anchor makes up so that you're reasonably close to it. You'll know in a few minutes whether or not you're on a good piece. The first thing you should look for in the area is the presence of the perch (bergalls). If you don't run into them, you're off the rocks and on the sand. If you get a lot of small life, stick around for a half hour or so and see if you get some blackfish. If you get some of them, more than likely the cod are right behind them. It seems that the blacks and cod go pretty much together. If the bergall life is really fierce, and nothing else is coming up, then it is time to look for another spot. Whenever the bergalls are heavy, chances are there are no cod in the area.

Here a small cod is brought to gaff.

If some of the high spots don't seem to produce, don't be afraid to look around the edges or on some of the slopes. It may take five or six drops before you get on the right spot; but there is no use in staying in a dead spot. This is one reason why a lot of anglers seem to avoid this place, it takes a lot of moving around at times to get into some fish.

Unlike open bottom fishing where you might have to get a hook three or four feet above the sinker, on the rocks, the cod are usually grubbing pretty close to the bottom as they forage for food, so it pays to keep a couple of hooks right near the sinker and forget about the high hook. What I'll usually do is rig a #4 Virginia (blackfish) hook right above the sinker, and then add another hook of the same size about twelve inches above that one. These hooks are more than ample to tackle any cod that will come along, as it is very rare to pull a fish over fifteen pounds off the Banks.

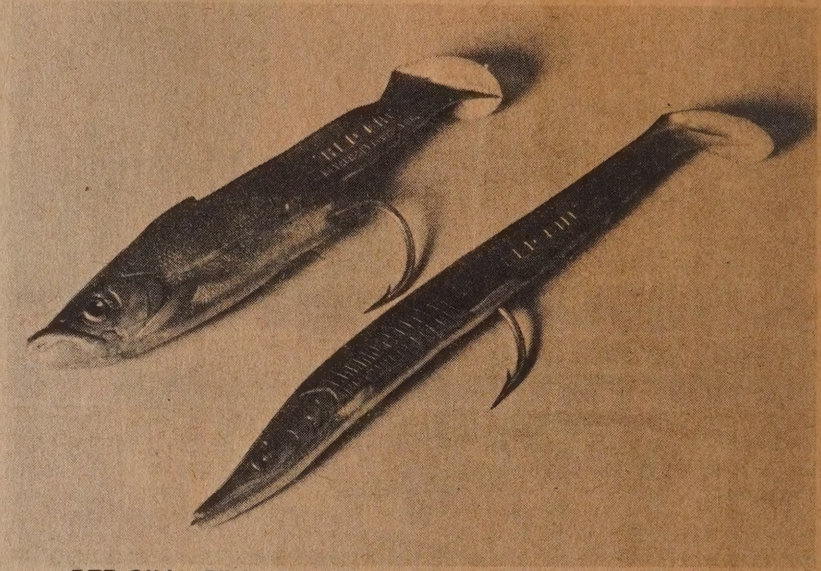
Another slight problem here is avoiding the onslaught of the bergalls that will run through skimmer clam bait in no time. What to do here is to get your hands on some fresh conch. You can get some at LI Sea Clam at Point Lookout, or at Charvin Fishing Station in Freeport, and you will find when cut into thin strips it is virtually impossible to take from a hook. It defeats the voracious onslaught of the perch and the blackfish and cod will take the conch as readily as they will a skimmer. If you have a couple of bucks to kick around, invest it in some green crabs and you'll be all set for some serious blackfishing; and you'll get around the bergall problem by going this route also.

For the most part, the action will be mostly blackfish, with a cod coming through occasionally. Surprisingly, the cod take a bait as vigorously as the blacks and will fight damn near as hard. You may pick a handful of cod through the blacks, and if you luck out you might run into a little patch of cod. I made a trip to the Banks last spring during the last week of March and got on a tiny bump that yielded eleven small cod in an hour's time, and only minimal perch life. Other drops that day yielded only a few blackfish, and another four cod.

What will be in store for the Cholera this spring, is anybody's guess. We are coming off the worst winter's codfishing that anyone has seen in a great many years, so the outlook is bleak to say the least. However, fishing the Banks is a new and vastly under-publicized method of fishing that deserves a harder look than a great many fishermen are giving it.

THE RED GILLS ARE COMING! THE RED GILLS ARE COMING!

by Gary Soucie



RED GILL—Pilchard and Sand Eel from Blue Fox Tackle Co.

Hang the lanterns in the church steeples, because we are being invaded from Britain again—only this time it is by way of Minnesota. What I am talking about are the Red Gill lures that are manufactured in Mevagissey, Cornwall, by a fellow named Alex J. Ingram. Chances are you haven't yet seen a Red Gill—but you will! They have become the most popular soft-plastic lures among saltwater sport fishermen in the British Isles and Europe.

Red Gills are now being imported into the U.S. by a Minnesota firm called Blue Fox Tackle Co., formerly called National Expert Bait Co. (or NEBCO), which is probably best know for its Vibrotail minnow jigs. Until now, Red Gills have been available only to U.S. fishermen who live in border states and who could buy them in Canada. A few years ago I first heard about the Red Gills in a British fishing magazine, and more recently, I had heard tantalizing rumors and reports from the Pacific Northwest and Great Lakes. Late last season I managed to get my hands on some Red Gills, and all I can say is make some room in your tackle box.

Red Gills come in two models: a six-and-a-half inch Pilchard and an eight inch Sand Eel. Both lures are available in four colors: red, green, blue, and silver/gray. Actually, all four colors are variegated and very natural looking, almost iridescent. Both models incorporate an air chamber molded into the front half, which looks as if it were made in a mold cast from a live fish, but the rear end is the product of a very clever designer. The tail section is flattened vertically, with a perpendicular swimming tail at the very tip. The combination of air chamber, flattened aft section, and swimming tail gives the Red Gills a very convincing action when they are trolled or retrieved slowly.

So far, Red Gills have invaded U.S. markets primarily on the West Coast and Great Lakes. Albacore and salmon are the prime Pacific targets, and in the Great Lakes, the lures are trolled slowly just below the surface for coho salmon or down deep on outriggers for coho and lake trout. Field testers elsewhere have demonstrated the effectiveness of Red Gills on a wide variety of species. In Mexican and Central American waters, the Red Gills have been taking a great variety of fish—including dolphins and a few billfish. In Florida, the lures have been particularly effective on snook, and elsewhere in the South Atlantic and Gulf, they have been taking sea trout, red drum or channel bass, tarpon, king mackerel, groupers, and other species both shallow and deep. Early field testing around Martha's Vineyard showed that Red Gills were very effective on stripers and blues.

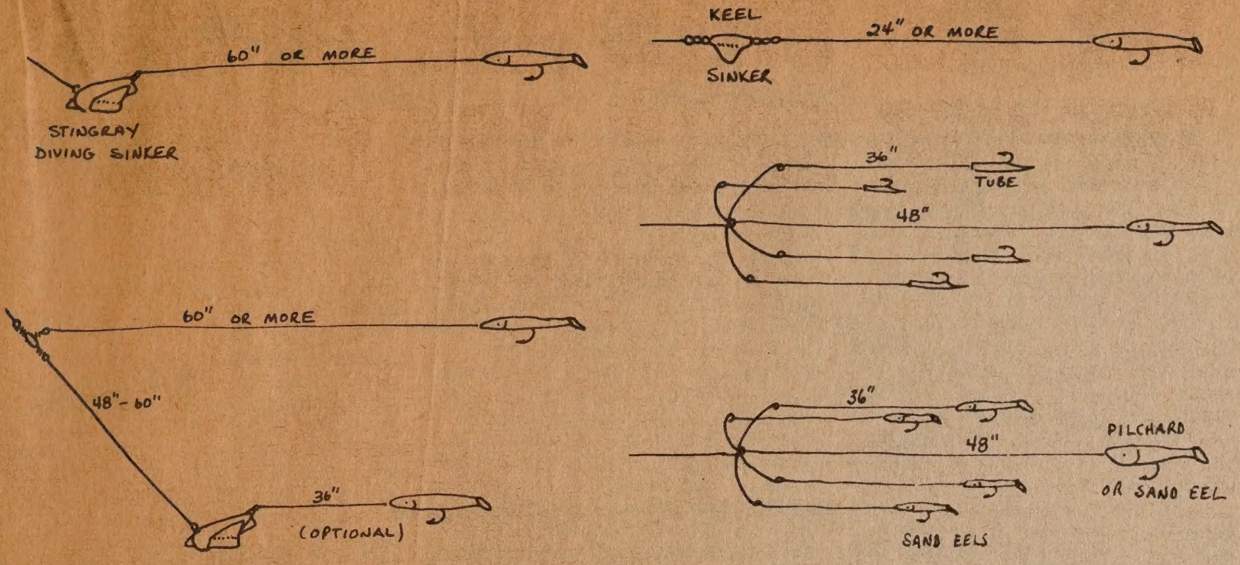
Their terrific swimming action is what makes the Red Gills so effective, but I doubt their uncanny resemblance to important bait and forage species harms them any. The sand eel or sand launce is a major source of food for such species as striped bass, mackerel, fluke, coho salmon, Arctic char, and just about everything else that swims: bluefish, weakfish, whiting (silver hake), cod, haddock, pollack.

Last summer our waters were mysteriously invaded by large numbers of European sand launce, which is the species the Red Gill Sand Eel is designed to imitate. For a time last summer, most of the blues taken offshore of Rhode Island and New York had their guts stuffed with the things. White marlin and bonito were observed busting the invaders' school, too.

On a hot, slow day last July, while getting a nice tan, but not much else fishing for fluke and mackerel from shore at the New Harbor Inlet on Block Island, I saw a huge European sand launch washed up on the beach. The thing was ten-and-a-half inches long! The fishing was slow anyway—averaging less than one strike every half hour—so I decided to experiment with the big sand eel. I didn't even take time to make a trailer-hook rig; I just impaled it through the eyes on my one-hook fluke rig. The result: two strikes on two casts. Neither fish (fluke, no doubt) managed to find the hook, of course. The first left tooth marks halfway up the bait, and the second managed to strip the hook. What I wouldn't have given for a bucketful of continental sand eels! Or, had I known about it then, a Red Gill Sand Eel.

Few fluke fishermen use lures that are eight inches long, although some veteran stalkers of the Montauk Rips use live baits that big for doormats. British anglers use the Red Gill Sand Eel for various flatfish in their tidal rivers and cuts, so I see no reason why the lure won't do as well on this side of the big pond.

As for the Pilchard, well, that isn't a bait fish name heard very often in these parts. The Red Gill lure actually imitates the European



Red Gill Trolling Rigs.

sardine, commonly called pilchard. Down in Florida and the Caribbean, the distantly-related false pilchard is commonly called pilchard and is used to take Spanish, cero, and king mackerel, snook, tarpon, sea trout, barracuda, sailfish, and a variety of reef fish. Pilchards, true and false, are closely related to and resemble small herring. What can you catch on a small herring? Everything from stripers and blues to school tuna. West Coast albacore and salmon apparently have been unable to distinguish between this ersatz European fish and the herrings, sardines, and anchovies they are used to.

Both Red Gill lures are rigged and fished the same way. Simplest method is to thread the end of your monofilament through the mouth of the lure and out its vent. Mono has a tendency to bind against soft plastic; so be sure you cut the end of the line cleanly and moisten it before threading. Use your favorite terminal knot to attach the hook and pull the hook as far inside the body as the bend shape will allow. Both lures use the same hook; a strange, specially-shaped stainless steel hook that is about the same size as an 8/0 O'Shaughnessy or a 6/0 Sea Mate. I see no overriding reason why you couldn't use a different size or shape hook if you feel like going larger or smaller in size.

On toothy species, you probably will want to use a twelve-inch bite leader of solid or stranded wire. A longer wire leader probably would affect the lure's swimming action.

Slow trolling, about three knots, is S.O.P. for fishing the Red Gills, but European and some West Coast and Florida anglers jig them in deep water over reefs and wrecks. Sea bass and conger eels are the deep European targets, and groupers, barracuda, and similar reef dwellers have been the ones principally taken so far by our deep jiggers. Much of the North American experience with Red Gills has been on chinook and coho salmon, for which the lures are trolled unweighted and unadorned just below the surface in late winter and early spring, and way down deep behind flashers, dodgers, and downriggers the rest of the time.

A lot of deep trollers use the Red Gills on three-way spreaders, and I have talked to people who have used them very effectively in our waters on umbrella rigs. You can use nothing but Red Gills on a spreader or umbrella rig, or just a single Red

(Continued on next page.)

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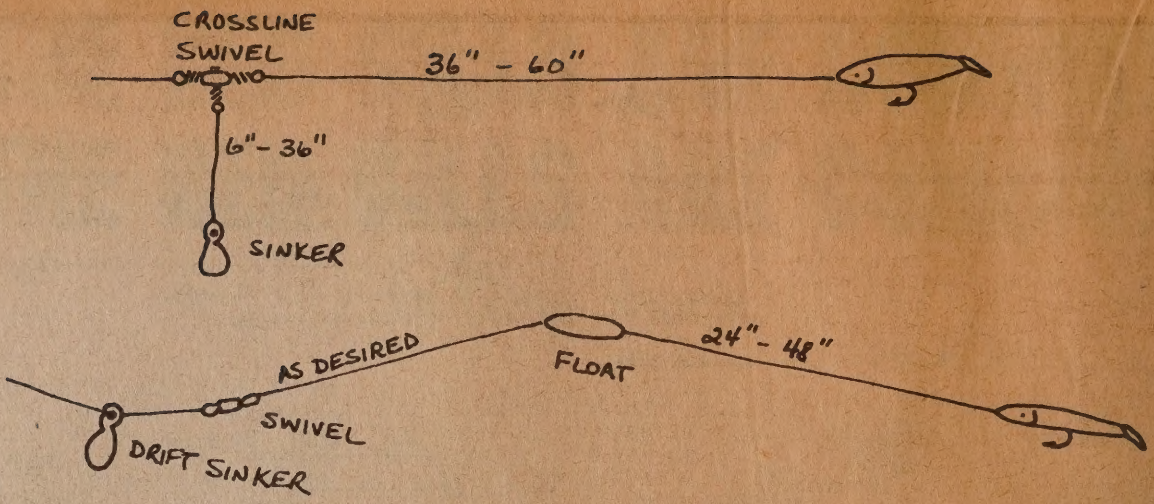

Red Gill rigs for casting, drifting, jigging.

Gill in the center position and tube lures or small flashing spoons elsewhere. According to Gary Caputi of Hillsdale, N.J., who has done a good bit of umbrella rig testing of Red Gills on bluefish, these lures outfish tube lures by a factor of two-to-one, or four-to-one if the whole umbrella is armed with Sand Eels. On umbrella rigs for blues, according to Caputi, the green and red lures seem to work best, with blue a little behind. He hasn't had that much success with the silver/gray color. The Pilchard model also works well on the umbrella rigs, according to Caputi, because it imitates the herring types and snapper blues.

Field testers and early-bird anglers on the Gulf Coast have been scoring well on the Red Gills when casting them from bridges and piers. In our area, the best reports I have heard so far from shore casters were those along the New Jersey Coast who rigged them on a 50# mono leader about two to three feet behind a sliding egg sinker of appropriate weight. Any of the standard drift or bottom rigs would work well fishing from boats or around inlets. You will need a weighted terminal rig for casting, because both lures weigh less than an ounce.

You may be wondering about the durability of these plastic lures when subjected to blues, weaks, and other toothy critters. Gary Caputi tells me he used the same lures on an umbrella rig for two consecutive weekends and a couple dozen blues didn't destroy anything. They marked the lures up, but they were still hanging together and working. In softness, the plastic used in the Red Gills is more nearly like that used in plastic eels than in plastic worms.

I'm not sure how long it will be before the grapevine encourages other tackle dealers to start stocking them. If you can't wait, send $2.95 to Blue Fox Tackle Co., 645 N. Emerson, Cambridge, MN 55008, specifying which model and color you want. And tell them you read about the Red Gills in **The Fisherman**, so they can put the heat on their area distributors. I buy a lot of tackle by mail—but I'd just as soon save the time and postage.

When the British sent their Redcoats over here, we sent them packing; but I think the Red Gills are here to stay. This time everyone wins, except the fish.

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NEWS & NOTES
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OF FISHING
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Council Moves Ahead on Bluefish Plan

During its April meeting in Philadelphia, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council voted to deal with a bluefish management plan on a priority basis. Even that status won't lead to a plan before next year, but it does represent the best the Council can do under the circumstances. The outstanding turnouts at the fact-finding hearings assured plenty of support within the Council for a priority status. The present schedule calls for preparation of a management plan ready for public hearings by next spring. In all likelihood, that initial plan will involve little, except reporting requirements. However, it will provide the Council with an opportunity to act relatively quickly (by amendment) to deal with any future emergency.

At present, there doesn't seem to be any imminent problem with either an export fishery this year, or any potential lack of bluefish. South Atlantic member, Norm Angel, received word from a southern North Carolina skipper that he had seen a huge school of eight to ten pound bluefish pass by far offshore a couple of weeks ago. According to the captain, that school of blues heading north was the biggest he'd ever seen—stretching out for miles!

Long Island Leads The Way In Mackerel Harvest

A survey of last spring's recreational fishery for mackerel in the mid-Atlantic showed Long Island to be the major producer of that species. The survey was initiated too late to obtain results from Virginia and Maryland, but the mackerel run is short-lived and of relatively minor importance in those states. Delaware was surveyed from April 4 to May 8, during which time 181,662 mackerel were caught, primarily by private and charter boats.

From April 8 to May 12, the southern New Jersey area (Cape May to Beach Haven) accounted for 1,087,081 mackerel. In that area, party boats accounted for over sixty percent of the fish, with private boats taking most of the balance. Surprisingly, the more populous north Jersey area produced slightly fewer mackerel—1,048,976. Once again, party boats took most of the catch.

The South Shore of Long Island was surveyed from April 29 to May 28. The total catch was recorded as 2,849,713 mackerel—almost all from party boats. In addition, the North Shore (from May 5 to June 8) chipped in with 1,695,587—almost entirely from private boats! Average weight of the survey catch came to just under one-and-a-quarter pounds per fish. Taking the accurate mid-Atlantic data obtained by the researchers and combining it with some previous information about New England, the survey team came up with an estimate of a 6,103 metric ton recreational mackerel catch in the entire American range of Virginia to New York. That's just about what the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council figured would be caught. It represents a slight increase from the desperately low, estimated recreational catch of 4,947 metric tons in 1976, but is still far below the 32,081 metric tons estimated during the 1970 Anglers Survey.

While there was some improvement in the mackerel fishery last year, the best is yet to come. The spawning stock is at record low levels, but the foreign ships now catch only insignificant numbers—and a great number of tinkers were spotted inshore last year. If those tinkers made it through the winter, we could be in for some much improved mackerel fishing in the next few years.

Party Boat Fluke Survey Provides Catch Data

Results of an interesting survey of party boats fishing for fluke out of north Jersey ports indicate that the average angler gets his money's worth. Boats sailing out of Point Pleasant Beach, Belmar, Brielle, and Atlantic Highlands were sampled during the period from June 19 to September 1. When all was said and done, anglers on the full-day boats had averaged 3.14 fluke per trip, while the half-day fishermen boated 1.86. Of course, those "averages" have to be taken with a grain of salt—particularly in a summer fishery. With lots of "tourists" aboard, there'll be quite a few fishermen that get shut out. Indeed, many will be seasick on even the calmest of days. The "pros" that fish these boats undoubtedly have a much higher catch on every trip.

Analysis of the catch indicated that the vast majority were three-year-olds, and just barely eating size (mostly thirteen inches to seventeen inches). There is no fourteen inch limit in New Jersey. The fluke fishery is very heavily impacted by both commercial and recreational fishing on a virtually year-round basis. Many scientists are concerned that the species may already be fished beyond its MSY. As this is a very mixed inshore/offshore fishery (almost all the recretional catch is within three miles), the Mid-Atlantic Council agreed to turn over plan preparation to the State/Federal Program. A project manager is on board, and progress at the scientific level has been good so far. The elements of a plan should be ready in one-and-a-half years, but there'll be lots of work beyond that before anything will be done to implement the regulations.

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THE CAPTAIN'S TABLE

...From the Godfather's Cookbook

with Andy Regina

LINGUINE WITH CLAMS

A typical American holiday in an Italian family must be experienced to be fully appreciated. It could be Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day or just somebody's birthday. I'd like to share one of our typical feasts with you. Choose any one you like—they all run about the same, and you can hardly tell one from the other, anyway.

Everybody starts out the same way: staying up late the night before, preparing all sorts of goodies and getting up bright and early to get the cooking started. That's where the resemblance ends! Our doorbell starts ringing about 8AM, heralding the first of the holiday callers, dropping in for a quick greeting before continuing in their way to wherever it is they go to when they leave here. Eileen's cousins can be counted upon to initiate our day, and we always have our first cup of coffee with them. The way that cousin George depends upon cousin Dominick to guide him alerts us to the fact that maybe the boys have already made several early morning calls before getting around to us; but it doesn't seem to diminish their thirst a bit. Inevitably, some of my Johnny Black gets washed down with the coffee and zeppolles before they take their leave, bumping into the next arrivals on the way out.

Now it's her nieces and nephews, with the kids, to say hello before they go to their respective in-laws for dinner, and a fresh pot of coffee is brewed, along with a few bottles of milk for the kids. And another platter of zeppolle. All thought of a second pot of coffee is forgotten when the doorbell once again rings, ushering in my sister and her brood, on their way to my Mom's for dinner, and just dropping in "for a minute." The nieces and nephews graciously decide to leave, making seating room for the new arrivals, who promptly start decimating another platter of zeppolle as they await their morning coffee, which is already brewing in the kitchen. It's better now—we're ahead a bit: ten left and six arrived, so we're up by four!

The scene gets repeated several more times before the bell stops ringing, but the peace and quiet is short lived before the first of our dinner guests arrive, a little early, "to give Eileen a hand." Naturally, while helping, more coffee is brewed and more zeppolles consumed, to "take the edge off the appetite." One of my brothers-in-law has come to my rescue though, with a bottle of you-know-what, "for the holiday," which Italian etiquette demands gets promptly opened and started. And now the doorbell rings again, but I don't get too upset—the scotch is taking hold, and I greet the next batch of guests with a warm embrace, especially the girls.

Soon the kitchen is filled with chattering females, and the delicious aromas wafting into the living room are driving the men mad. The kids are pretty well quiet, settled in the den with TV, some games, and Aunt Millie's dog. The doorbell doesn't quit either, announcing more guests: the neighbor stopping to wish us his best, or the janitor, ladder in hand, come to fix the broken window pane we told him about last summer! The traffic doesn't let up either, and in the confusion I almost usher out Uncle Vito, newly arrived, with a case of imported Lambrusco, "for the holiday." His rare appearance at any family gathering demands a new round of drinks, and Frank's bottle of Johnny Black gets a big dent in it before the women start urging us to sit at the dining room table. Dinner has begun—finally.

We start out simply enough: some celery and olives, chunks of Aurrechio provolone, a dish of anchovies, zeppolle, and rolls. To keep us satisfied before the antipasto is served! Our seating plan is rigidly fixed: grown-ups at the main table, kids at the secondary table next to ours, and the bigger kids at their own table in the kitchen, where they won't be treated as kids. My Uncle sits at one end of the table, opening the Lambrusco, which we drink when the antipasto arrives, huge platters of exotic Italian delicacies. Three or four different types of olives, prosciutto, ham, salami, capicola, roasted peppers, provolone, Fontini, mozzarella—you name it. The hot antipasto tray boasts stuffed mushrooms, stuffed hot peppers, stuffed eggplant, eggplant parmigiana, caponatina, and sweet and hot sausages. All this is eaten with platters of zeppolle and dozens of rolls, and washed down with bottles of Uncle Vito's Lambrusco—"to please the palate and whet the appetite." In an hour we're ready for the next course, but need some anisette or amoretta "to settle the stomach." The next course is soup, "to line the stomach."

The average Italian soup plate resembles everyone else's vegetable bowl, and gets filled to the brim with chicken, carrots, different pieces of meat, a piece of prosciutto skin, and tiny egg bows—just something light "to line the stomach!" Once your stomach gets lined this way you can barely breathe, so it's more sweet stuff, anisette or amoretta, to settle the stomach again, and prepare it for the next course, the pasta. You'd think that making macaroni was a simple task, but it's not so—at least with us. Most of us agree on ravioli, but some don't care for them, so a plain macaroni is prepared for them—some homemade fusilli or cavatelli. And because some people want hot sauce, two sauces are prepared: the normal "sweet" sauce and a diabolical concoction made with fresh hot peppers, the smell of which is enough to start your eyes tearing!

So the girls bring in the pasta—a platter of ravioli with sweet sauce, a bowl of fusilli with hot sauce, and three bowls of cavatelli—one with sweet sauce and grated cheese, one with sweet sauce and no cheese for those who don't like cheese, and the third bowl (which should be asbestos-lined) full of cavatelli with hot sauce. Accompanying the macaroni are platters of gravy meat with sausages and meatballs, bracciole

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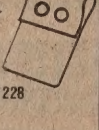

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and spare ribs, chicken, pork, and in the hot sauce, shin of veal—Uncle's favorite. Those stout-hearted ones who like to taste a bit of everything are advised to eat the sweet stuff first, else the hot sauce will make your mouth too numb to tell the difference when you assay the sweet sauce.

To put the fire out, we wash the hot stuff down with cold wine, and when the Lambrusco gives out, a gallon of hearty Barberone gets passed around, giving way to yet another gallon of Chianti or Zinfandel, all of which prepares the way for the main course: the bird. Now, there are some gourmets who espouse a different wine for each separate course, served in different glasses to savor the true taste and aroma of each different wine, but we go from one wine to the next with the same glass, and it doesn't seem to make a difference. In fact, by the time the third gallon is started, we don't even care anymore! And so, to fully enjoy the main course, the stomach is once more settled with anisette or amoretta (the sweet stuff) to offset any accida incurred during the prior feasting.

In deference to our editor, we are going to break off our holiday story in mid-meal, and will continue with it in a future issue, if you'd care to follow it through to its culmination. And, in deference to all those holiday-gorged stomachs, we'd like to offer a simple pasta dish to all you happy hot sauce lovers out there. It's nothing fancy, and we call it, simply:

Linguine with Clams

Ingredients:
18 Cherrystone clams, in shell.
1/3 cup olive oil
2 or 3 cloves garlic
1/3 cup Italian parsley, snipped
1/4 tsp. crushed red pepper
1/4 tsp. coarse black pepper, or less.
1/4 tsp. basil
Simmer: 10 min.
1 lb. linguine
Simmer: 10 min.
Servings: 4

Scrub clams well. Heat oil in large skillet; add garlic, saute until brown. Remove garlic and add clams, parsley, red pepper, black pepper and basil. Cover and simmer ten minutes. Uncover and simmer five minutes longer. Meanwhile, bring three quarts of water to a boil, with one tablespoon of salt, in a large pot. Add linguine gradually and cook until barely tender (al dente)—about ten minutes. Place drained linguine in soup plates, top with clams in shell, spoon liquid over them, and enjoy. Some of that Lambrusco we spoke about will serve nicely here, but make sure that it's ice cold, to put the fire out!

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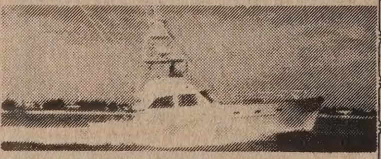

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CODFISH

t appears as if the spring run of cod at Montauk is on in full force and should rapidly approach the quality of the fishing in 1977. Captain Warren Hader, for example, of the charter boat **Devil Fish** called to tell us that he made his maiden voyage on Saturday and really murdered the fish south of Block Island. Score for the day for the six-man charter aboard was 60 big cod and one large pollack, most taken on diamond jigs.

Captain Buddy Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** also called to say that fishing has been good to very good everyday last week and it looks like a great spring run is on. High hooks everyday for a dozen or more fish of mixed sizes and if the angler worked at it, there was no reason not to take ten or twelve cod. Best catch of the day was on Thursday when a single angler had over 200 lbs. of cod by himself. Buddy said that there are codfish all over the bottom south of Block Island and you can catch in water anywhere from 55' to 115' deep, with the larger fish found in the deeper water. More of the fish are now being taken on diamond jig and tube rigs, with the color green producing best. He also noted that there are plenty of cod closer to Montauk at areas such as Southwest Ledge and at the Submarine Buoy, but the fish are smaller and range from 4 to 8 lbs. The first snowshoe flounder of the season also was taken aboard the boat this week, and the Captain said that the draggers working the back side of Montauk are taking an unusually large number of jumbo porgies and sea bass which hopefully means we'll have another great year in this area.

Captain John DeMaio of the charter boat **Vivienne** called to say that he really lucked out on Friday when he made the boat's shakedown cruise. Fishing by himself, he stopped at an area by the Submarine Buoy that produced so well last year and found a huge school of cod waiting for his arrival. No other boats were fishing in the area, so he had the fish to himself and in about two hours he filled the box with 50 cod that weighed more than 500 lbs. His first charter was on Sunday with

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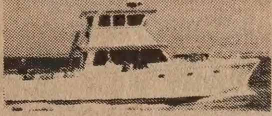

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regulars Howard, Frank and George who took 33 cod in the same area up to 18 lbs., about half of which took the diamond jigs and tubes worked SLOWLY off the bottom. One angler fish of about 30 lbs. was also taken and livened up the day.

Charter boat **Julie III** reports that six members of the NYC Transit Authority led by Boris Demitrius and Big Jim accounted for 53 cod from 3-12 lbs., along with a 2½ lb. flounder taken on clam at Cartwright on Saturday.

Captain Phil Lewis of the charter boat **Adios** called to say he anticipates a good run of spring pollack, that should hopefully be smashing diamond jigs very shortly.

Charter boat **Prowler** called and asked us to remind you that they are offering a free trip as a prize. Eligible is any charter that books for the season before July 15.

Captain Fred Bird of the **Flying Cloud** tells us his first cod trip on Saturday south of Block Island showed excellent results on jumbo cod. An example is the 52 lb. cod taken by Art Biscardi of Lodi, N.J. George Downes was high hook with a nice round 25 cod, averaging 12-30 lbs. A few were taken on diamond jigs, but most on clam. The boat was anchored up and chumming heavily. Sunday's cod trip resulted in a nice mess of cod also.

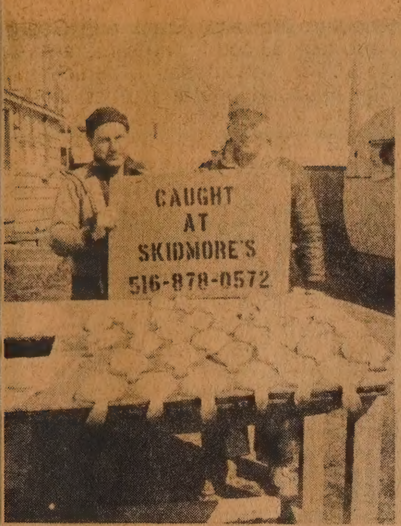
SOUTH FORK
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

SHINNECOCK

The Captain Clark Fleet reports good flounder action Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at Red Cedar Point and south Jamesport in Peconic Bay. Ronny Mody of Coney Island had 43 keeper flounder on Thursday. On Friday, most fares had from 20 to 25 good sized fish. Saturday was only fair, but catches improved Sunday as evidenced by Ed Miller of NYC with 24 keepers. This was all on worms and mussel baits, which worked equally well.

HAMPTON BAYS

Fred at **Altenkirch Bait and Tackle** tells us that there has been good flounder action at buoy 17 in Shinnecock Bay, and also at the bridge at Jamesport on worms and mussels. A few bass in the surf have fallen to sand worms at the Ponquogue Pavilion in early morning hours this past week. Five pound class weakfish have been taken in pound nets in Shinnecock Bay; so another species is upon us.



This fine catch of flounder was taken at Buoy 45 in Moriches Bay by Howie Walsh and Don Manger with bloodworms and mussel chum. The two anglers left from "Skidmore's Fishing Station".

MASTIC BEACH

Stiriz's Fishing Station happily reports that the flounder have come back beautifully and are a good size. The area from buoy 17 to 26 and the mouth of Forge River have been best, sizes ranging from 1 to nearly 2 lbs. Saturday morning saw the best action of the week and things appear to have returned to normal again with the weather settling down. Mussels have caught best. Mackerel have shown up on the outside in big size. One private boat in about 40' of water had 27 on Saturday in the area of the C buoy off the inlet.

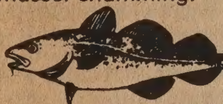
MORICHES BAY

Silly Lily Fishing Station reports good flounder catches on Sunday from buoy 42 to 45 on sand and bloods, but that you MUST chum. Best catch of the weekend was for teen-agers Karl Hoeverman of Rockaway, N.J. and Ronald Schultz of Wharton, N.J., with 37 big keeper flounder. Bill says they're hitting hard now that the water is warming up, not sucking on the bait. Saturday things were off due to the wind and cold.

Andy at **Sea Tuck Cove Fishing Station** tells us fishing on the weekend was good, especially Sunday, with all his rental boats averaging roughly 40 keepers. All fish were fat. Catches were mostly between buoys 43 and 45 on the flood tide, with mostly bloodworms and sand worms and mussel chum. The fish appear to be building again with the advent of higher water temperatures.

Bill at **East Moriches Bait and Tackle** tells us that Bill Vargas, Donna Kijowski and Steve Begora and Mike Kijowski had 46 keeper flounder up to 1½ lbs. at Buoy 45 on bloods, sands and mussel chum. They also used frozen clam chum. Stan Seneski, John Frame and Brian Formhaley boated 23 keepers up to 2 lbs. 8 oz. at Gardiner's Bay by the fish factory on an incoming tide, sand worms on the hook and mussel chum under the boat. The 2 lb. 8 oz. flounder won the Great Gun Angler's Flounder Derby. Bill and John of the store welcomed the mackerel season in with 75 mackerel, jigged just a short way off the beach.

Skidmore's Fishing Station tells of a very good flounder weekend with the late fishermen doing best because of the timing of the tides. Larry Jarrach and Joel Angone of Miller Place had 33 flounder at buoy 42 using bloodworms and mussel chum. Charlies Barggis and Carl Schmath and Jim Casey had 24 keepers fishing buoy 45 on bloods and heavy mussel chumming. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Clark had 71 keepers fishing the south side of buoy 43 on sand worms and red-dyed clam and heavy mussel chumming.



GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

SAYVILLE

Vinnie at **Young's Fishing Station** reports the flounder fishing was great this past week with a tremendous number of flounder around. Catches of 50 plus per skiff were common. Everybody is catching said Vinnie, at Water Island, Barrett Beach, Cherry Grove and Sunken Forest on worms, clam and mussel with mussel chum. The bigger fish seem to be off Sunken Forest, 3/4 to 1½ lbs. There's more quantity but smaller fish to the east. Flounder are all over the bays on running tides.

WEST SAYVILLE

Jim at **South Bay Fishing Station** tells of good catches of flounder all week long. James McHugh of West Sayville had 26 keepers. Best catches have been Heckscher's buoys 4 and 5 and Sailor's Haven and Point O'Woods. The south side is definitely better. Best baits have been mussels or worms with plenty of mussel chum. Fish are averaging 1 to 1½ lbs., with lots of midgets which, of course, should be returned gently to the water.

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EAST ISLIP

Wally from **Buoy Two Bait and Tackle** reported that Bob Locherer fished with Hank Kahlke on Friday and landed 25 flounder up to 2 lbs. 7 oz. at Buoy 2. Also on Friday at Buoy 2, Ron Meyer and Joe Puleo took 51 nice flounder on worms and mussel chum. They had fish up to 2 lbs. among their catch.

BAY SHORE

Smokey's Bait and Tackle tells us of Bridgewater angler John Peters and two pals who had 35 keeper flounder from 1-1½ lbs. fishing the south side of the Bay off Ocean Beach Saturday. The Point O'Woods area has been picky. The north side of the Bay has been very quiet. Worms, mussel and clam on the hook, plus a lot of mussel chum is the ticket. A few weakfish in the Bay and at Bergen Point on Jelly Worms. A commercial boat on Sunday came in with 200 lbs. of weaks taken outside Fire Island Inlet in about 40' of water. The Freeport

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Star Stream II had a good blast of mackerel in about 75' of water just south of Jones Inlet around the coal barge on the first early morning drift.

The open boat **Casey Lee** reports that flounder fishing has been fair to good with catches running from 4 to 20 fish per fare. Best fishing in recent days has been found at Point O Woods and Lone Hill.

CAPTREE

The Jib Fleet reports that Saturday and Sunday's floundering was fair fishing Point O'Woods and the Heckscher Flats. In the early morning, our visiting Great South Bay whale surfaced near the lighthouse, giving all anglers a show.

Capt. Ben Litwin of the boat by the same name told us that fishing was down from what it has been but fares still manage a few fish. The Captain is looking forward to improved fishing with an ebb tide most of this coming week.

Captain Richie Westerlind of the **Captain Richie** said that the weekend's fishing was picky fares taking anywhere from 5 to 15 flounder per man. The captain found his best action at West Channel and Heckscher Park. Worms and clams both take fish. Richie also reported that the white beluga whale that has been hanging around all spring was spotted in the Lighthouse area by several of the Captree boats.

Speedy Hubert of the **Captain Speedy vi** found good fishing on Saturday and fair fishing on Sunday. The best fishing is found on the ebb tide in an area stretching from Sailor's Haven to Range Channel. John Kriss of Manhatten landed a 2 lb. 2 oz. flounder on the **Captain Ben Litwin** and collected the $250 weekly flounder pool. Speedy asked us to remind those interested that if the mackerel show he will begin fishing for them immediately. If you're undecided whether or not the boat is on the mackerel run give the Skipper a call.

Captain Wayne of the **Speedy VII** enjoyed good fishing on Saturday in Range Channel on worms, mussels, and clams. Ebb Tide seemed to produce the best action and the Skipper looks forward to improved action this week with a better tide than this past week.

The **Captain Whittaker** told us that fishing has slowed somewhat but fares still manage 10-25 keepers per man. Over the weekend Point O Woods produced decent fishing as long as the tide was running. Pool fish was 1¾ lbs.

Captain Neil Delanoy of the **Lady Ann** told us that they have been making good catches of flounder from Point O Woods to Lone Hill. Charters have been taking anywhere rom 200 to 600 flounder per trip. Fish are mixed in size and taking both worms and clams. Stirring the

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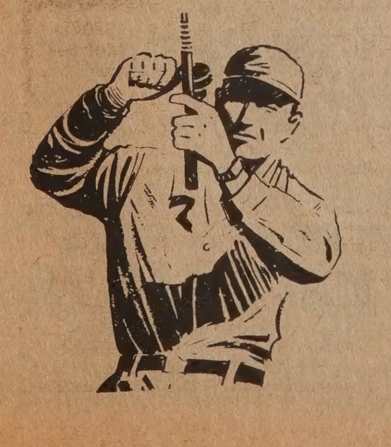

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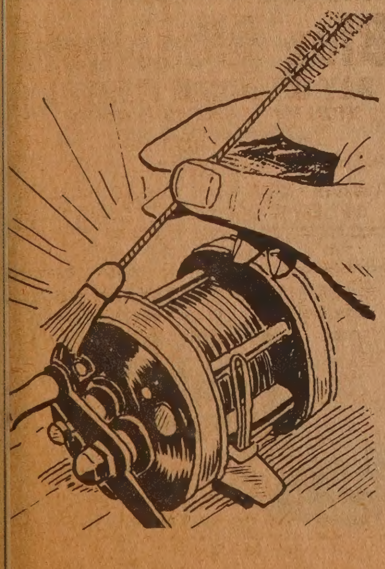

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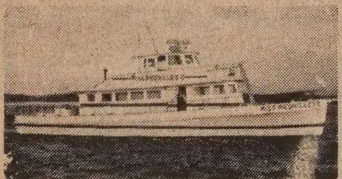

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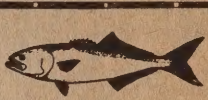

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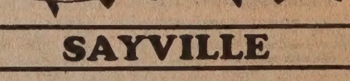

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bottom makes a very big difference in the action. Neil also reported sighting the whale in the Lighthouse area this week.

OAK BEACH

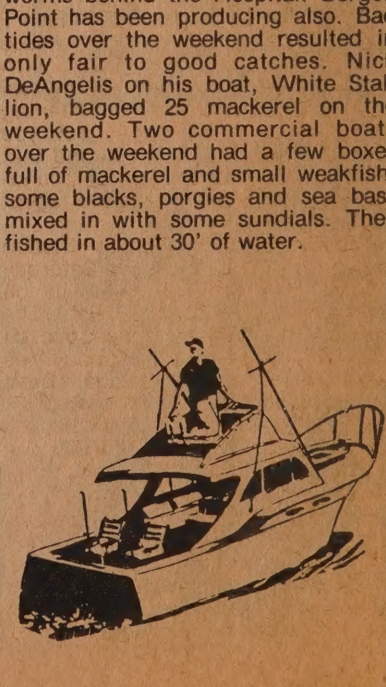
The Store reports the first blackfish of the year has been hook and lined by Pam Warner of Long Beach on 6 lb. test in front of the store off the bulkhead. Believe it or not, this fish was taken on a sand eel. The fish weighed 6 lbs. Dominic and Dave had 23 flounder on Saturday, fishing off the small dock just north of The Store. Average catches per man on flounder this past week ran 2-5 fish. Rumors have been heard of some weaks at Ocean Beach on sand worms.

BABYLON

High Hook Fishing Station tells us that all his boats went out on Saturday and all returned with good catches of flounder. High hook was 25 good keepers. Sunday's catch was a high hook of 15 flatties, with all boats catching. Fish are running 3/4 to 2 lbs. and best has been in front of the pool and the flats side of the Hospital on worms and mussel and, of course, mussel chum, both running tides.

Charlie's Fishing Station reports all their skiffs caught well on the weekend, especially Saturday. Bob Linge and wife returned with two buckets of fat keeper flounder taken on blood and clam chum fishing the east/west channel on an incoming tide.

Dolores at **Augie's Bait and Tackle** reports that John Georgiades with Luke and Carol had 52 keepers and one eel Friday fishing off Good Sam on worms, clam, and mussel chum. Kevin Malone and wife Mildred on Friday had 30 keepers fishing sand worms behind the Hospital. Bergen Point has been producing also. Bad tides over the weekend resulted in only fair to good catches. Nick DeAngelis on his boat, White Stallion, bagged 25 mackerel on the weekend. Two commercial boats over the weekend had a few boxes full of mackerel and small weakfish, some blacks, porgies and sea bass mixed in with some sundials. They fished in about 30' of water.



SOUTH SHORE BAYS
★ BEST BET ★ FLOUNDER

LINDENHURST

Captain John of the open boat **Sea Horse** reports that the flounder fishing was fair all week in his area, average catch being 5-15 flounder per man, fish from 1½ to 2 lbs. The flood worked best, fishing from West Babylon to Islip, working the flats and also in deep holes, with worm and clam.

Charlie's Bait and Tackle reports flounder are almost a sure thing, with the best spots being the Sore Thumb, Babylon Pool, behind Good Sam, and Amityville Cut on worms, clam and mussel on any moving water.

COPIAGUE

Larry at **Bait and Tackle Unlimited** tells of good flounder fishing off Tanner Park, Unqua Point and Good Sam on worms and red-dyed clam and clam chum. Fish are up to 2½ lbs. and have been hitting best at the beginning of the flood. A few weakfish taken on the outside by commercial boats from 1-3 lbs.

SEAFORD

Uncle Hermie's Fishing Station reports fishing not so hot this week, but on Friday, Ed Donnelly and pal Joe had 35 keepers fishing the bulkhead drain on worms and clam and mussel chum. On Friday, Charles Payne and Buddy Henry each had about 23 flounder apiece fishing the Amityville Cut with mussel baits and plenty of mussel chum. Catches have been running from 5-50 fish per boat, but you have to work hard for them and that means a lot of chumming or pounding. Squaw Island has been about the best spot.

Captain Eddie's Fishing Station reports he had all boats out Saturday and Sunday and all came in on Saturday with at least 20 fish. The best action is Massapequa Cove on worm and mussel chum. Sunday was poorer due to high winds. Dave Daratamy and two pals boated 70 flounder from 3/4 to 1¾ lbs. on Saturday. On Friday, Ed Wilk and three buddies took 150 keepers.

Pop's Fishing Station tells of extremely good fishing Thursday, Friday and Saturday. On Friday, NYPD ESU #8, headed by Willie Chioaflo and five friends bagged 85 good flounder plus two kingfish and one mackerel fishing Massapequa

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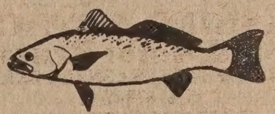

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Cove. Larger fish are being at Squaw Island. Best catches are on worms and mussel with clam chum and also on red-dyed clam on the hook. Incoming and the beginning of outgoing have been best.

AMITYVILLE

George Combs Bait and Tackle reports a good flounder weekend with the best catches being made at Massapequa Cove, Fort Neck, Unqua Point and West Island. Chumming is a MUST. Also, mussels on the hook, followed by worms in order of preference. George says many charter and open boats were fishing the Massapequa Cove area this past weekend, both tides working. Plain, old good flounder fishing says George. Some macks and weaks showing in the nets. The shop will have green crabs by this weekend.

MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** tells of good flounder activity Thursday, Friday and Saturday, poor on Sunday due to winds. The three best producing areas were the Golf Course, Rowboat alley and Ned's Creek. Joe and Joe Falsetti of Elmhurst and Woodhaven respectively had 70 flounder between them on Friday on mussels and worms. John Demeno on his boat Mar Jon had 15 blackfish and 7 small cod to 22 lbs. on an offshore wreck.

Merrick Marine Tackle Center has had customers back in telling of good flounder catches in the deeper spots behind Merrick, Freeport and Bellmore on worms, mussel and clam with a lot of chum necessary.

BALDWIN

Andy at **Arthur Street Fishing Station** reports a healthy catch of flounder for Bob Organ and Michael Concro taken at the mouth of Parsonage Creek on clam and mussel on Sunday on the flood. Bert App and crew had a good catch of flounder in Baldwin Bay on mussel and worm on Sunday on the last of the flood. Bill Halberstadt of the Shell Bank Rod and Gun Club enjoyed a good catch fishing Merrick Saturday with worms and mussels. Ling was taken by Bob Shane, fishing in about 70' of water on his bot Sea Wolf, clam on the hook.

FREEPORT

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WEST END SOUTH SHORE

★ BEST BET ★ FLOUNDER

FREEPORT

Charter boat **Blue Fin** called and reported spectacular ling fishing on Sunday west of Jones with many men having 25-30 ling, along with a few whiting. The ling went to 2½ lbs. and there was brisk action all day long. On Saturday, Captain Sy Karlin took the boat to Squaw Island, where they had a good day's catch averaging 10-15 keepers a man on worms, clam and corn chum. The fish wanted worms mostly. Fish ran from 1/2 to 1½ lbs., plus an assortment of throwbacks, best on the incoming.

Jackie at **Hook, Line and Sinker Bait and Tackle** reports her customers are finding good catches of keeper flounder at Swift Creek, Long Creek, Scow Creek, with sand worms working very well, along with mussel chum on all tides.

The Captain Al reports very good flounder catches late in the day Sunday around low water at West Island; catches from 10-20 a person of mixed sizes, with many double-headers. Al will be switching to mackerel by the time you read this report. The mackerel are definitely around with the main body moving up from New Jersey. The **Captain Bill** manned by Captain Bill Lindroth and crew took four dozen macks on Sunday along with a good swipe at the ling and whiting. The macks were between the Bell and the Whistler. The Captain Bill will be running open weekdays only, chartering weekends. See ad for details.

Captain Richie Kessinger on the **StarStream II** had a jumbo catch of ling and whiting on Sunday, along with a scattering of mackerel. On Monday morning, April 23, Richie found a good size school of mackerel just off the coal barge in 75' of water south of the inlet and had a good pick going most of the morning. He will now be fishing strictly mackerel on a daily basis. He has been doing his ling and whiting fishing between the BA, Scotland and Ambrose.

Captain Spider on the **Aloma II** reports picky flounder fishing, an average of eight keepers per man fishing locally . Worms, mussels and clams are working just fine. The Captain asks us to remind you that the boat is located on the west side of Woodcleft Canal, directly across from Dockside Luncheonette.

The Captain Hall tells of a good day flounder pounding Saturday with high hook in the twenties. High hooks all week long have ranged from the teens to the thirties. Sunday's action was fair with 17 flounder high hook. A few tommy cod have also been coaxed to the hook. Catches have been on worm, mussel and clam.

The Captain Lou II reports very good flounder catches all week, with high hooks generally in the twenties. Michael says Saturday was fantastic with Massapequa Park angler Bob Matus high hook with 38 keepers plus plenty of midgets. There were many other catches in the twenties and the pool hit close to 3 lbs Things were slower Sunday, But John Taska of Flushing still eked out 24 keepers for high hook honors. The fish are still in the back bays and not moving yet says Mike, but warmer water will soon send them scurrying to the main channels. He's been fishing local back areas. Fish are averaging 1-1½ lbs. and Mike reports plenty of action.

Ron Feuring at **Sea Isle Sports** happily reports on the StarStream's finding a big catch of mackerel very locally. He also reports of Tom Stevenson's catch of 71 keeper flounder in Merrick Bay on Saturday at the top of the incoming tide on worms and mussels. Get this one. A 1½ lb. croaker was caught in Baldwin Harbor by Don Palmer of the Baldwin Rod and Gun Club. This fish was taken from the bank on a bloodworm. The fish presently resides in Sea Isle's freezer for anyone doubting the veracity of this report.

Captain Arnold of the **Shalidon** called to tell us that his boat is presently on its way up from Florida and will be back on Woodcleft Canal again very soon.

Felix Pesinkowski and Adam Robrecht fished 150° out of Jones in 120' of water and boated four cod weighing 12, 20, 30 and 37¾ lbs. Adam, age 12, had the largest fish, all on clam.

Richie at **Charvin Fishing Station** passed on the word about the Capt. Bill's 4 doz. mackerel on Sunday and the StarStream's catch on Monday and everyone is ready for a big mackerel blitz. Two nice cod at 36 lbs. 3 oz. and 33 lbs. 12 oz. were taken on the boat Little Charlotte fishing in 110' of water, 160° out of Jones by Glen Hendricks and Ray Veneziano of the Baldwin Rod and Gun Club.

Charter boat **The Rogue** called to tell us that Steve and Rich had 12 flounder on Friday fishing Reynold's Channel and that Captain Dave and girl friend Tracy picked 18 keepers on Saturday, also in Reynolds Channel. This was on incoming tide on clam. Dave asked us to remind you he is offering $50 off any flounder charter booked before Memorial Day.

The Freeport Boatmen's Association reports the whole fleet did a good job on flounder this weekend with the following detailed information. The **Norseman** fished the Musicaro Fishing Club Saturday for a total of 114 keepers. A high hook with 14 fish was Stan Stahurski. Fish ran from 3/4 to 1½ lbs and they worked Squaw Island on an incoming

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FISH TALK

(Continued from page 13.)

their efforts to make a few extra bucks. WOW!

HABITAT PROTECTION. It is clear that what many of the experts say about the ability of our marine resources to reconstitute themselves is true. The sea creatures can be very prolific and usually it is environmental factors that prevent a successful year class, rather than a lack of eggs and sperm. Consider, if you will, that some fish can produce many millions of eggs and that just a few individuals can be the parents for an entire generation. However, sometimes the temperature isn't right or the water flows too quickly, or there are too many predators on the eggs and fry, or something else. Thus, it seems that we have a responsibility to protect these spawning places so that we and our activities do not become a negative environmental factor that might be responsible for preventing a successful year class. The bays and creeks cannot continue to be fair game forever because there is simply too much at stake! If we dump poisons, rake over the bottom, cover the eggs, harvest the pre-spawning individuals, and overheat the water with our power plants, how can we expect the fish will spawn successfully. There are no longer just a few thousand people scattered about Long Island. It has become a densely populated area, yet the waters are important nursery grounds for many fish and shellfish. We must think about it and develop a management plan for these special habitats before they are no longer special!

QUINCY

(Continued from page 21.)

in advance. Large groups frequently reserve their boats as much as a year ahead. I've never fished with one of the Quincy Bay party boats that advertises in the back of this magazine. But I'm sure there would be an advantage in going out with a professional that knew the Bay on a day to day basis.

One more thing. The quantity of fish you can catch is formidable. Uncleaned, this will amount to a great deal of weight to be transported the two hundred fifty miles home. For that reason, I fillet my entire catch. If you're not handy with a knife, then a helper at Hurley's will gladly lend a hand in filleting for ten cents per flounder and forty cents per codfish. The bulk, now greatly reduced, can be stowed on ice in plastic bags in your freezer chest. When properly cared for the fillets are as tasty as any you'll get from local waters.

The preparation and planning for this trip will become a minor consideration once you've experienced the fishing in Quincy. Believe me, it's worth it.

tide. Captain Arnold on the **Atlantic** worked the entrance of Garrett's Lead off Reynold's Channel for a count of 97 flatties from 1-1½ lbs. Captain Jimmy's **Nite Owl II** on Sunday had the No Fish Fishing Club out. They stopped counting when they passed 150 fish. High hook with 35 keepers was Joe the Polack and the pool winner with a 2 lb. flounder was "Pete the Turk." The boat fished Squaw Island and the Massapequa Area at the bottom of the tide, both sides. All these catches were on worms, clams, and mussels.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reported very good flounder fishing in the areas of North Channel, Cinder Creek and on the flats. I.C. Kellert and Bill Kives fished the flats in Middle Bay over the weekend and picked up 55 nice 1-1½ pound flounder on worm and mussel bait. Mitchell Paley was out with his father and grandfather and fished 50 nice keepers from the flats. The first reported catch of blackfish came from the Sprauce brothers of Glendale, who fished the Meadowbrook Bridge and took a dozen 4-6 pound blacks on green crabs and clams.

Scotty's Marina told us of good flounder catches coming from the flats. Boats fishing for flatties over the weekend averaged 30-60 fish per boat, some fish to 2¼ pounds. Sandworms and clams were most productive. On the offshore scene, boats are still taking whiting and ling in 108 feet of water due south of the inlet. Some mackerel were taken so we should be seeing some action here soon.

AR
CHARTE
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Artie Skelnick shows off his 2 lb. 7 oz. flounder taken in Woodmere Channel aboard the Long Beach charter boat "Nyar-I".

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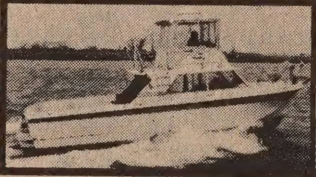

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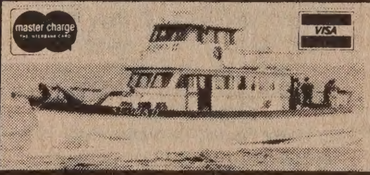

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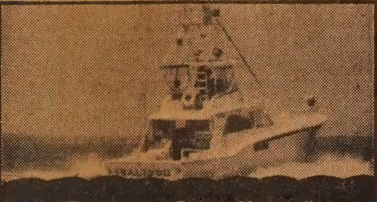

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ISLAND PARK

Charlie at **Beckmann's Tackle** said that flounder action, although slower this weekend, was very good in pretty much the same local areas. The back bays are producing best on worm and mussel with chum playing an important role in increasing catches. One fluke was taken on Sunday by an angler fishing in Jones Inlet.

Captain Clem of the **Commodore** tells of a pretty good Friday and Saturday flounder fishing, catches averaging 12-15 per person. Fishing was in Baldwin Bay and Reynolds Channel. Sunday's fishing was down a bit, working the old oyster beds in Woodmere Bay. Clem says the fish are going to start moving soon from the back bays in to the main channels such as Reynolds. Tom Rupp of Canarsie had 28 keeper flounder Saturday. The boat also had some fish in Deb's Inlet during the week on high water.

LONG BEACH

The **Long Beach Sports Marina** reports very good flounder fishing over the weekend for boats fishing Duck point. Mike and John Ritter, Karl Vachrow and Manny Paradise fished Duck Point on Wednesday with worms, mussels, and mussel chum and took 85 flounder. On Saturday Karl returned with Manny and Leo Paradise to grab another 79 nice sized fish. Hog Island Channel has also been a good spot for flatties.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Sy Rubin of **Henning's Fishing Station** reported good flounder fishing off the Cedarhurst Yacht Club, Buoy 5, East Rockaway Inlet, and Woodmere Channel. Bloodworms and mussels are producing most of the fish. Sy knew that one of the local gillnetters has been taking weakfish and some school bass in his nets the past few days. Also Sy knew of 2 small fluke taken in Jones Inlet by flounder fishermen.

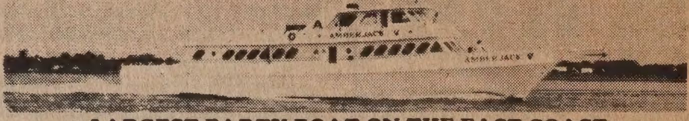
SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The **Dorothy B** had tough flounder fishing over the weekend which was a big change from the very good fishing during the week. The boat fished the Shewsbury River, Sandy Hook Bay and the mouth of the Navesink with worms and clams and also did some ling fishing on both Saturday and Sunday. On Sunday the flounder started biting again and fish up to a 2 pound pool were taken.

The **New Elsie K III** had excellent flounder action during the week fishing Sandy Hook. Fish up to 2½ pounds hit sandworm and mussel bait. This action was much slower on the weekend.

★SHEEPSHEAD BAY★

★NEW AMBERJACK V★



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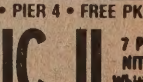

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The **Zephyr** enjoyed excellent flounder fish in the Navesink all week. Average catches of 10-25 fish per person were taken with sandworms and mussels,, 90 percent of these flatties hitting the 1½ pound mark. Over the weekend the boat fished for ling in the 1-3 lb. range because of the slow down in flounder activity. Captain Butch said that starting next Saturday the boat will be wreck and rock fishing. See ad for details.

Captain Tom of the **Pilot II** had fabulous blackfishing off of the Jersey Coast. On Saturday catches of 4000-5000 blackfish in the 2-9 lb. range were taken by approximately 70 passengers. This action was the same on Sunday with crab and clams producing best.

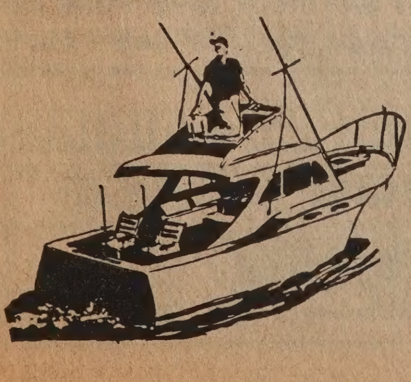
Captain Walter on the **Flamingo III** tells of a fabulous weekend on mostly ling and some whiting with very good action, good crowds and great weather. The fish were just a short run over to Scotland and Sandy Hook. Good mackerel reports have been coming from down the Jersey coast. The fish are moving and Walter should be able to get into the main body by the weekend and the day should include whiting as well. Ling have been exceptionally good, fish 2-4 lbs., and whiting improving constantly.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait and Tackle reported flounder fishing is still good at both North and South Channel Bridges. These nice sized flatties are hitting bloodworms and mussels and are averaging one pound.

STATEN ISLAND

Santo's Sport Shop reports that best flounder activity was found at piers 18 and 17 and at Penny Beach, with fish hitting sand and bloodworms. The area from Ft. Wadsworth to Princess Bay are producing smaller fish with less quantity. Striped bass rom shorts to 4 lbs. are hitting the beach at Great Kills Park. Sand worms are doing the trick, with incoming tide producing best. Jersey Street is also producing small bass on worms. The first confirmed report from Cliff St. was on Saturday when a 3 pound bass was taken on a bucktail.



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FLOUNDER

GREENPORT

AP White Bait Shop reports flounder fishing was very good during the week with good fishing also on the weekend. Sandworms, mussels, and skimmer clams took fish at East Marion, South Ferry, Cedar Beach, and Doering Harbor. The open boats **Nancy Ann** and **Brand X** did well despite small crowds over the weekend. Pool fish have been running 2¼ to 2½ lbs. with the average fish running between 1 and 2 lbs.

SOUTHOLD

Ace of the **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** reports that pretty good flounder fishing continues in their area. Ace named Cedar Beach, Jessups, South Ferry, and Smith's Cove as well as the Old Lighthouse at Long Beach as some of the more productive spots. Mussels and worms take most of the fish which are averaging around 1½ lbs.

NEW SUFFOLK

Phil Loria of **Captain Marty's Fishing Station** told us that the few boats that sailed over the weekend did well with good size flounder at Rose's Grove. The biggest fish he weighed on the weekend was 3¼ lbs. Most of the fish averaged 1½ to 2 lbs. High hook on Saturday had 33 big flounder. Phil spoke of a couple of porgies, few blackfish, and some mackerel mixed in with the flatfish. Besides the Rose's Grove area Phil named South Race and Nassau Point as producing quality flounder but not too many of them.

NOYAC

Helen at **Noyac Fishing Station** really bubbled over as she happily related the news of great flounder fishing in Noyac Bay all this past week and weekend. "The best in years," is how Helen put it. Dennis Kennedy, with Denise and Scott on Friday morning boated 39 keeper flounder in just a few hours of fishing off Long Beach on worms and mussel chum. Fish ran from 1¼ to 2 lbs. There have been a lot of very good catches.

AQUEBOGUE

Warren of **Warren's Bait and**

Tackle told us that flounder fishing has been good at Cedar Beach and the Rose Grove. Fish are running 1 lb. to 2½ lbs. and are being taken on mussels and sandworms. Casters take smaller fish from the beach at Indian Island County Park. Warren told us that a friend who runs a commercial dragger has been getting a bushel of big porgies a day in Gardiner's Bay. Hopefully this is a sign of things to come.

PECONICS

Speck''s Bait and Tackle reports that Bill Fales Sr. and Jr., along with Dennis Kennedy and Mark Capolo of Bellerose fished Noyac Bay this weekend and took 130 flounder from 1¼ to 2 lbs., fishing off the Monastery and Long Beach. Heady Creek in Shinnecock produced a bushel of flounder on Saturday for Bill Morini and wife Susan, fish from 3/4 to 1¼ lbs. Napeague Harbor gave forth 22 keeper flounder to Joe Falke on Saturday, fish 1½ to 2 lbs. fishing inside the Bay, with a few outside. The Canal is still not too hot, and rumors of bass off the Southampton Beach.

EAST HAMPTON

Bill at **Three Mile Harbor Fishing Station** tells of good fishing the whole week through in the Harbor, with best in the channel on outgoing and inside the Harbor on the flood. The west side of the Harbor was best, with mussel and worm on the hook and a big help from the chum pot. Fish ran from 1/2 to 1¾ lbs. Lew DeResta and Lou Penello of Arverne had 80 fish between them on Tuesday up to 1¾ lbs. Ben Valentini and son Sergio bagged 25 flatties on Saturday, fish up to 1½ lbs.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

ROCKY POINT

Stan of the **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** reports that the flounder fishing has been dynamite as far as quality is concerned. Buoy 11 has been producing flatties up to 2½ lbs. on sandworms and mussels. The first hook and line weakfish to come to our attention was confirmed by Stan. The fish was taken at Buoy 11 by Sam Porteous on a sandworm meant for a flounder. The fish weighed around 6 lbs. Many anglers reported spotting small schools of mackerel chasing sand eels on the surface from Wading River all the way to Crane's Neck. Casters have begun taking flounders from the beach at Hagerman's Landing and the Shoreham Power Plant.

MT. SINAI HARBOR

Ralph's Fishing Station spoke of very good flounder fishing at Buoy 11 and Miller Place. He also had a few unconfirmed reports of anglers landing mackerel at Buoy 11. The flounders out in the Sound are all nice size fish running from 1¼ to 2 lbs. and are being taken on sand worms and lots of mussel chum.

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station reports very good flounder fishing both inside the harbor and out in the sound. In the harbor fish tend to be smaller but more plentiful while the fish being taken at buoy 11 and Crane's Neck are averaging around 1½ lb. with many 2 pounders being taken. Sandworms and clam bait with lots of mussel chum produce best.

KINGS PARK

OK Bait & Tackle used dynamite to describe some of the catches made over the weekend. On Saturday Norman Schwartz and Noel Tucker returned with over 100 big flounder from Crane's Neck. Mussel bait and clam chum produced most of the fish which were up to 2 lbs. Also Saturday John Koliner and Randy Girese returned with 40 flounder up to 1 ¾ lbs. for just 2 hours of fishing. They also fished Crane's Neck. The Bruno Family managed 120 nice sized flounder which they took over both Saturday and Sunday fishing the Mansion area and Crane's Neck. A number of their fish were up to 2 lbs. in weight and were taken on sandworms while chumming with mussels. The first mackerel brought in to the shop was taken on Saturday by Ed Olsen. It was landed at Callahans.

HUNTINGTON

George Valentine of **Four Winds Bait and Tackle** reported good flounder fishing out in the sound for fish running up to 2 lbs. George named Callahans as one of the more productive spots in the area. He also knew that the first blackfish of the season was taken by Bob Shirley while dunking worms for flounder. Lots of small flounder are available

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FLOUNDER KILLER RIGS (Beware of imitations). Flounders are committing suicide on this widely used 3-hook rig, especially designed for the "Meat Fisherman." Special design and construction keeps tangling of hooks at a minimum. Handmade, finest material. Three completely tied rigs for $3.50. Send check or M.O. to: P. Miller, 150 Babylon Turnpike, Merrick, NY. 11566.

FREE CATALOG—Quality Saltwater Rigs. HUDSON TACKLE, P. O. Box 437, Dept. L., Kearny, N.J. 07032.

FREE CATALOG—Hooks, rigs, diamond jigs, bucktails, Bananas, Rebels, umbrella rigs, Tri-Fins, and jelly worms. PLUS a lot more at discount prices. Send to: CUSTOM TACKLE, BOX 38, DEPT. 1, SEAFORD, NY. 11783. FOR QUICK DELIVERY: Phone 516-799-7031.

JIG FISHERMEN—SOMETHING DIFFERENT. A custom jig tying and custom mold making service (Silicone). Send for my small, free catalog. JACK MURTHA LURES, Rt. 3, Box 358, Summerfield, N.C. 27358.

Fantastic Shakespeare Combo—5' 10" #SP1100 Ugly Stik, all ceramic guides; and Shakespeare #5910 skirted spool spinning reel. Brand new; still in original factory wrappings. - $75. 516-223-6135 or 516-868-2391. After 6PM.

Hooks $1 a doz. Jigs, specialty hooks. All hooks used Mustad and Eagle claw. Worms 50 for $3. $.75 postage and handling. Prices quoted on larger amounts. Free catalog. Captain Hook, 103, Georgia Ave., Long Beach, N.Y. 11561.

SAVE $2. Six-Deadly Weakfish Rigs. High/Low patented design. Some with tube or bucktail teasers. Maximum invisibility with minimum tangles. Reg. $7 value—now only $5 plus $.50 postage. Send check to: AQUA-CLEAR, 314 Cherry Road, Atco, N.J. 08004.

MACKEREL RIGS!! Three-tube tree with 4 oz. diamond jig $2.75. Add $.25 postage and handling to: Captain Hook, 103 Georgia Ave., Long Beach, N.Y. 11561.

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FISHING STATION & BOAT YARD BUSINESS FOR SALE: $25,000. 2/3 Down. Options. Call: 516-363-6024 after 6:30 p.m.

RARE OPPORTUNITY—Boatyard Business for sale, on Merrick Rd. in Copiague waterfront. Only $51,000. 842-5726 After 6PM.

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MILLIONAIRES WATERFRONT MANSION
COST over $750,000. SACRIFICING for $350,000 due to illness. BAY SHORE, N.Y. 800' waterfront, bulkheaded; 200 yards to GREAT SOUTH BAY, sheltered boat slip; boathouse; island. Four professionally landscaped acres, stone entrance & bridge; ten bedrooms, six bathrooms, large sunken living rooms, dining rooms; billiard room; kitchen and 32'x50' trophy room. Many extras. FOR THE EXECUTIVE WHO CAN AFFORD THE BEST! PHONE OWNER—516-665-6355.

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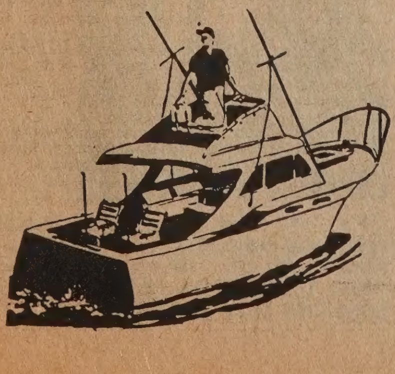
JEEP CHEROKEE 1976, 6 cyl. Quadratrack, 28,000 miles, 2 sets of rims and tires, 10x15 Goodyear A-T's plus snows. Heavy duty cooling, suspension and shocks. Roof rack and trailer hitch. $6000. 516-785-5106.



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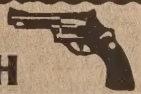

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HUNT THE FIELDS—169 ACRES
Hunt Pheasant, Rabbit, Quail, Chukar
$30 per person per day including 2 birds released on arrival. NO BAG LIMIT ON BIRDS.
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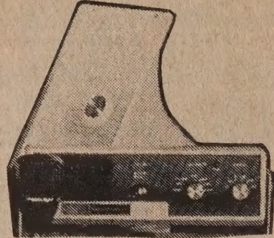
RAYTHEON introduces:

RAY-350 "Maxi-use" Loudhailer



It's also a powerful "listener," automatic foghorn, and emergency yelper. With accessories it can be a PA/ intercom and an alarm for intruders, low oil pressure, water temperature and fumes.

Press the mike button. The RAY-350 projects your voice across the water. Release the mike button, and it's a sensitive listening device for distant shouts, bell buoys, or surf pounding on darkened shores.

Programed foghorn.

As a foghorn, the RAY-350 is programed for automatic sounding of inland, international, or Great Lakes signals. Manually, it can be used for sounding signals for drawbridges, passing vessels, etc.

Detects intruders and other danger.

When you add optional listening-talk-back speakers, (up to three), the RAY-350 also serves as an intercom, PA and audio system that will even pipe radio broadcasts or recorded music throughout the boat.

With the optional intrusion alarm unit, the RAY-350 will blast an alarm to scare off burglars. With auxiliary monitors, it can warn you of bilge fumes and engine malfunctions.

Unmatched 2-year warranty.

Built and tested to withstand the toughest marine environment, the RAY-350 has a two-year limited parts warranty plus one-year free on-board service within 100 miles of any of our 210 U.S. dealers and worldwide service network in major ports everywhere.

See the Raytheon Line at one of the most respected Marine Electronics Dealers in the greater New York are—

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inside the harbor but many of these fish must be returned to the water. A number of anglers reported spotting mackerel chasing bait on the surface over the past few days.

Ronnie's Bait & Tackle told us that many nice flounder have been taken off Callahans with the best fishing having been during the week. Some good catches were made on the weekend however. Mr. Popov and his wife checked in 75 good fish on Thursday which were taken on mussels and worms. Tony Bafcallicatio and Mark Rinaldo fished Callahans for just 2 hours and returned with 35 flounder from ¾ to 1½ lbs. Ronnie knew of a couple of blacks taken at Callahans but was more enthused about an 8 lb. striper taken on a Rebel in Oyster Bay on Friday night. This fish was the first taken in the area with the exception of winter over fish at the Power Plant.

Captain Don of the **Ever Ready** called to remind you that he will be starting fishing Saturday, May 5, and that it looks like a great flounder season on the North Shore. See Don's ad for details.

Jack at **Mooring Time Fishing Station** reported excellent weekend action for flounder with 30 father and son members from the Bethel Lutheran Church of Huntington bagging up at the lighthouse and at Target Rock. A party of four had 48 keepers fishing Sand City. Buoy 11 in the harbor produced 25 keepers for one skiff at the end of the ebb. The bulk of these catches were on sand worms and mussel chum.

NORTHPORT

Tom Bowman of **Bowman's Sporting Goods** told us that good flounder fishing continues in the harbor for fish running ½ to 1 lb. Bigger fish can be found outside in the sound at Callahans and Target Rock. Tom mentioned sandworms, clams, and mussel chum as the ticket to a good catch of flatties.

Dave and Charlie Carman display their pool winning flounder taken aboard the City Island party boat, "Ebb Tide II". The largest flounder tipped the scale at 2 lbs.

NORTH SHORE WEST END

★ BEST BET ★ FLOUNDER

COLD SPRING Hbr.

Mark of **Salty's Bait and Tackle** told us that on Saturday Mike Forte and his son Doug landed 40 flounder inside the harbor on the outgoing tide. Fish ran from ¾ to 1¼ lb. and were taken on sandworms and clam bait. On Sunday Charlie Esposito single-handedly took 30 keeper flounder up to 1½ lbs. on sandworms and mussel and corn chum. Charlie also found his action on the ebb tide. Mark reminded that bigger fish are available to those who fishing outside of the sound and named Lloyds Neck as a consistent producer of flatties running up to 2½ lbs. Mark also reported flounder fishermen picking up a few mackerel out in the sound.

GLEN COVE

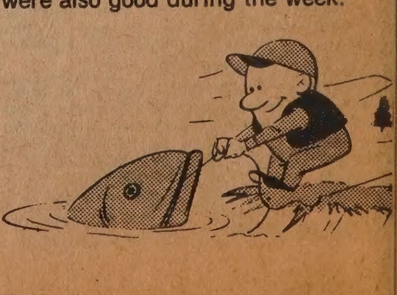
Captain Joe of the new open boat **Lady Lil II** confirmed that Saturday will be his first sailing, flounder at 7:30 a.m. He says the boat is all painted and pretty and that he will be fishing the Northport area. See ad for details.

CITY ISLAND

Jack of **Jack's Bait And Tackle** told us that boats returned with 25 to 35 nice flounders apiece over the weekend. Most of the action was in Eastchester Bay and at Orchard Beach. Sandworms have been producing the best catches. Jack also passed along word that the local open boats have been doing very well fishing the Bayville area. Small stripers, most of which are shorts are being taken in Turtle Cove by casters using Rebels and sandworms. An occasional 3 or 4 pounder is mixed among the smaller fish.

CITY ISLAND

The Ebb Tide II called to report good flounder catches on the weekend, all on sand worms between Matinecock and Smithtown. Catches were also good during the week.



HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK		Breakwater Harbor		NEW YORK		NEW LONDON		WILLETS POINT		BRIDGE-PORT		NEW-PORT		DATE
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	
THUR.	7:27	7:48	8:14	8:36	8:06	8:27	9:02	9:18	11:26	11:39	10:56	11:12	7:18	7:39	4/26
FRI.	8:13	8:31	9:03	9:22	8:54	9:14	9:50	10:03	–	12:12	11:42	11:58	8:04	8:26	4/27
SAT.	8:59	9:15	9:48	10:06	9:44	10:00	10:37	10:51	12:21	12:57	–	12:29	8:50	9:11	4/28
SUN.	10:45	10:59	11:36	11:53	11:35	11:50	–	12:23	2:03	2:43	1:44	2:15	10:37	10:58	4/29
MON.	11:32	11:45	–	12:24	–	12:25	12:37	1:13	2:43	3:31	2:31	3:03	11:25	11:46	4/30
TUE.	–	12:21	12:40	1:14	12:38	1:15	1:26	2:08	3:28	4:21	3:19	3:52	–	12:15	5/1
WED.	12:30	1:10	1:30	2:09	1:26	2:05	2:19	3:04	4:16	5:22	4:09	4:43	12:36	1:08	5/2
THUR.	1:18	2:02	2:25	3:07	2:14	2:56	3:16	4:05	5:30	6:25	5:01	5:37	1:28	2:05	5/3

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet......—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

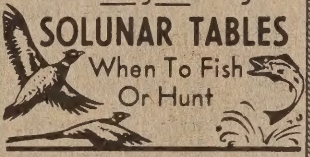
Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

4/1	5:44	6:25
4/6	5:36	6:31
4/11	5:28	6:36
4/16	5:20	6:42
4/21	5:12	6:48
4/26	5:04	6:53

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
4/26	4/4	4/12	4/19



The Original Knight

SOLUNAR TABLES

When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	**Major**	Minor	**Major**
Thurs.	3:50	**10:30**	4:25	**10:55**
Fri.	4:40	**11:25**	5:10	**11:55**
Sat.	5:35	**—**	6:10	**12:25**
Sun.	7:40	**1:50**	8:00	**2:20**
Mon.	8:35	**2:50**	9:00	**3:15**
Tues.	9:30	**3:40**	9:50	**4:10**
Wed.	10:25	**4:35**	10:45	**5:00**
Thurs.	11:15	**5:25**	11:35	**5:50**

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Selden
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698-1825

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764-0888

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